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COVERS 4

2009: ONE MAN'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR THAT WAS
From city dreams to Ed's horrible year to Tiger's even worse year, a tongue-in-cheek look at 2009.
ILLUSTRATION BY FRED CURATOLO

PUBLISHER • EDITOR Jeff Hebdon | jhebdon@see.greatwest.ca
ART DIRECTOR Michael Nunweiler | mnunweiler@see.greatwest.ca
SALES MANAGER Kerry Dupernon | kdupernon@see.greatwest.ca

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR Marlin Weber | mweber@see.greatwest.ca
NEWS AND FEATURES EDITOR Maurice Tougas | mtougas@see.greatwest.ca
WEB EDITOR Andrew Hall | ahall@see.greatwest.ca
DESIGNER Craig Jansen | cjansen@see.greatwest.ca

SALES CONSULTANT Chelsea Mailer | cmailer@see.greatwest.ca
SALES CONSULTANT Craig Murray | cmurray@see.greatwest.ca
CLASSIFIEDS • LISTINGS Shannon Cox | scox@see.greatwest.ca
PROMOTIONS Megan Hall | mhall@see.greatwest.ca

NATIONAL ADVERTISING Jim Fiske, Magazine Network | jim@magnetwork.com
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER Shane Bennett

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see magazine is located at:
#200, 10275 Jasper Avenue
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> THE PCS GAVE STELMACH **A 77 PER CENT APPROVAL RATING,** THE VERY DEFINITION OF WHISTLING PAST THE GRAVEYARD.

NEWS FEATURE • **REVIEW** • BY MAURICE TOUGAS | 1,600 words

2009: One Man's View On The Year That Was

FROM CITY DREAMS TO ED'S HORRIBLE YEAR TO TIGER'S EVEN WORSE YEAR, A TONGUE-IN-CHEEK LOOK AT 2009

And so, another year comes to its inevitable conclusion. And with that profound thought, let's take a stagger down memory lane and look back at the people, places and events that made 2009 what it was – another year.

EDMONTON

It was a year of big dreams for the one-time city of champions. We seemed to be suffering from a collective case of edifice envy, as ideas for big projects dominated the year.

Back in April, Edmonton's bid to host the 2015 World University Games was defeated by Gwangju, South Korea. This was unfortunate, but since we've already done the university games, and most people didn't even know it still existed, it was a blow to the Edmonton ego that was quickly forgotten.

Not so quickly forgotten is the much larger bid to host the 2017 world's fair. After Calgary briefly toyed with entering a bid – an idea apparently based on a bunch of Calgary power-brokers drawing up some world's fair ideas on a napkin at the Ranchman's Club – Edmonton became the official Canadian bid city. The proposed Edmonton Expo theme would be "Harmony of Energy and our Future Planet."

Seriously. Mayor Stephen Mandel seemed to like it, I guess. But hey, any theme that need an explanation is not a good theme. Fortunately, no decision on the winner of the 2017 Expo will be made until 2012, so there is lot of time to explain what the hell it means.

It was a big year for Mandel and city council, as another big project emerged – building a new arena, a transformative project for downtown. This seems to be one of those ideas that most everybody likes, as long as somebody else pays for it. The Edmonton Journal became the official house organ of the Darrel Katz empire, with a ceaseless drumbeat of pro-arena stories. Arena, good. Arena, good. Arena, good. OK, we get it.

Elsewhere, Edmonton's two top sports teams changed coaches. The Eskimos put Richie Hall in charge, and promptly put together another mediocre season, and a quick exit from the playoffs. On the plus side, Bryan Hall finally retired as Eskimo play-by-play guy, although you can still hear him on CHED catching up on all the plays he missed while doing commercials for Tony Roma's. The Oilers granted the wishes of Oilers fans by jettisoning Craig MacTavish. Oiler management then hopped in the wayback machine, set the dial to "very old", and hired Pat Quinn. Turns out that maybe coaching wasn't the only problem with the Oilers. A surplus of overpaid, underachieving nobodies may have been a factor as well.

And finally, city council ended the longest running controversy in Edmonton history by voting to shut down the City Centre Airport. Despite warnings from moneyed elite who loved their "private airport, Edmonton continues to exist. At least for now.

ILLUSTRATION BY FRED CIVATOLO

ALBERTA

Nobody expected much from Ed Stelmach as premier, and boy, did he deliver. Stelmach's 2009 was a nightmare for him, making it a nightmare for us as well.

The legislature slipped further into irrelevance, with honourable members debating such vital issues as Alberta's official fungi. The Tories, faced with deficits for the first time, took aim at its traditional boogeyman, health care, while still lavishing $25 million on a "rebranding" of the province's corporate look and logo. Gone is the "Alberta Advantage", replaced by ... um, anybody remember? (For the record, it's "Freedom to Create. Spirit to Achieve." Not quite as bad as "Harmony of Energy and Our Future Planet," but it's close.)

The Stelmach juggernaut muscled through Bill 44 that allowed parents to make human rights complaints against teachers if they don't like the fact that little Johnny is learning about S-E-X. Everybody hated it, but no matter. Then there was Bill 50, which gave the government absolute control over power lines in this province. Nobody likes that either, but hey, live with it? The Tory attitude remained: who's going to stop us? Well, maybe the Wildrose Alliance.

In a byelection in September, the Tories lost a seat to the Wildrose Alliance that they had held for 11 straight elections. The Tory candidate finished third, something that didn't happen anywhere in Alberta in the 2008 election. One byelection is not a tectonic shift in the political landscape, but it is a tremblet. The election of telegenic (that's politically correct talk for good looking) Danielle Smith as leader of the party helped to vault the one-seat, right-wing, oil industry-friendly party to first place in an opinion poll near the end of the year.

Then there was the distribution of the H1N1 vaccine, which resulted in people waiting in line for up to four hours. Then there was an uproar over closing 246 of the 400 beds in the Alberta Hospital Edmonton. The man in charge of both fiascos, Health Minister Ron Liepert, blessed with all the charm of a vulture, helped to drag Stelmach's popularity down to sub-Liberal levels. Still, the PCs gave Stelmach a 77 per cent approval rating at their annual convention, the very definition of the expression 'whistling past the graveyard.'

CANADA

Cast your mind back to the beginning of 2009. Stephen Harper was on the ropes. Only a bit of constitutional skulduggery at the end of 2008 – convincing Gov. Gen. Michaelle Jean to "prorogue" Parliament in the face of Liberal-NDP-Bloc Quebecois axis of weasels – prevented his defeat. But when Parliament resumed, it was painfully clear Canadians would have revolted if Stephane Dion has been installed as prime minister, and the coalition collapsed. Harper, meanwhile, shed his conservative coat and began a spending orgy to stimulate the economy, which included millions spent on advertising the stimulus plan to boost his party's image. With the economy recovering, and with the honeymoon for new Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff so short we didn't even have time to unpack our unmentionables, Harper ended the year in a stronger position than at any time in his nearly four years as prime minister.

ELSEWHERE ...

Barack Obama was inaugurated as U.S. president, beginning the inevitable slide from High Hopes to Failed Expectations ... After billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars were poured into propping up banks and other major institutions that were "too big to fail," the CEOs of said companies gave themselves millions in bonuses to congratulate themselves on a job well done, giving the American taxpayer a well-manicured finger in the process ... Americans were convulsed by a debate over health care, with unscrupulous politicians telling a series of lies about Canadian health care to scare the unholy crap out of Americans ... the right wing celebrated the return of Sarah Palin to the stage, thanks to her book Going Rogue. When she said she had been working on a book for a year, I just assumed she meant reading one.

Iceland's banking system and government both collapsed under the weight of the economic crisis. Icelanders were surprised and kind of put out that nobody really cared ... H1N1, nicknamed swine flu, is declared a pandemic, which is a combination of the words 'panic' and 'epidemic'. Governments worldwide went into vote buying crisis mode ...

Russian and American satellites collided in space somewhere over Siberia. I guarantee you one of them was a female satellite (ba-da-bing. Thank you. I'm here all this week.) ... In May, the Sri Lankan civil war came to an end, prompting a worldwide expression of: "There was a civil war in Sri Lanka?" ... The G20 economic summit was held in Pittsburgh. The world's 20 wealthiest nations come to unanimous agreement that they will never hold another meeting in Pittsburgh ... Abdelbaset Ali Mohmed Al Megrahi, imprisoned for the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, is released by the Scottish government on compassionate grounds as he has terminal prostate cancer. God is quoted as saying: "I gave the SOB prostate cancer, and this is the thanks I get?" ...

The International Olympic Committee awarded the 2016 Summer Olympics to Rio de Janeiro after Rio promised "the nakedest Olympics ever" ... NASA finds "significant" amounts of water on the moon. Pepsi announces plans for a moon landing that will result in the most expensive bottled water in the world.

POP CULTURE

Michael Jackson dies, and not from any of the myriad of weird things – monkey bites, never before seen diseases – we thought might have killed him. Farrah Fawcett dies on the same day, resulting in a run on the word 'icon'. Film director Roman Polanski is arrested in Switzerland on a United States arrest warrant for his decades old sexual assault on a 13-year-old girl. Luminaries from the entertainment world rally around Polanski, saying "who among us hasn't drugged and raped a 13-year-old girl?" ... Paula Abdul quits American Idol, expecting offers to pour in. They don't. I suggest a program called "Career Suicide with Paula Abdul." Co-host would be that Brian Dunkleman guy from the first season ... Guiding Light is cancelled after 147 years on TV, radio, vaudeville, burlesque, and nickelodeons after its last remaining viewer dies ... David Letterman sex scandal rocks television. Across America, young women are heard to say "Could have been worse. Could have been Leno." ... Efforts by Canadian billionaire Jim Balsillie to buy the NHL's Phoenix Coyotes and move them to Hamilton are thwarted by the league. League reasons there is just no future for hockey in Canada ... and the perfectly manicured image of Tiger Woods is destroyed when it is revealed that the world's greatest golfer has had umpteen mistresses, most of whom are cocktail waitresses and "escorts." Tiger's popularity among women collapses due to the infidelity, and among men because he could have done so much better.

COMMENT · RAMPANT RACISM | 690 words

Our Everyday Racism

HIDDEN NINJA FISH GRIWKOWSKY

CASUAL RACISM IS RAMPANT IN ALBERTA — BUT PUT THE SHOE ON THE OTHER FOOT AND SEE HOW IT FEELS

Ah, the holidays!

A time of opulent generosity, awkward social re-establishment … and that breezy frontier xenophobia that so defines us. Sadly, it's a much fairer label than some of us want to admit here in Alberta, irked if a Torontonian snubs us collectively as being redneck! But you can't just ignore things you hear here, day after day, decade after decade, from cab drivers and parliamentarians alike. It's not just Alberta, of course – racism is everywhere, used as a specific tool for mob evil in terrible ways rarely implemented here since we starved the natives into the treaty. But there is something special about this place, in part due to our cultural isolation and desaturated colour palette. Wading through the common denominators of our own gene pools, kindly enough people with nonetheless predictable ideas about skin colour affecting one's predisposition to violence, we know it's true our families simply glisten with pop bigotry, white crystals in snow. In this season, rubbing closely up against one another, all sorts of generalizations burst out if their subject matters aren't within earshot. And by the way, it's still not actually racist to point out someone's racism. Drudging up that defence is one of my favourite rebuttals, which is logically akin to claiming only a thief could identify the presence of shoplifting.

This year, within the confines of my own friends' mandatory loved ones, we heard once again how the Orientals can't drive, East Indians won't put enough money into anything to make it last and, as an aside, one of my personal quotes, "I don't like anyone who's gay." One grating new addition to my family recently babbled he was going to shut an Iranian mechanic down because he charged too much for an oil change, and eventually how he resented this guy being in "my country" in the first place. Just the least groovy thing I've heard in years.

What's extraordinary to me is how randomly a sentence like this will emerge – one second talking about some pointless sports statistic, then, bam, "I'm not racist, but the thing I don't like about Pakis is …"

If you've heard the following simple trick before, please forgive the repetition, but when someone says "I'm not racist, but x," what they're actually saying is "I'm racist, because x."

Try it out! No, do it!

What really pisses people off, at root, is the idea that they're somehow individually responsible for the behaviour or plight of others, race and religion being the cheapest and least thoughtful way for us to define each other. But it's nothing more than a lazy chauvinism anyone on the planet is capable of, and in most cases comes down to a stubborn and bratty refusal to admit empathy, as if this implies an admission of guilt and future servitude or slavery.

Moving on, I certainly admit to a lack of lust for the esthetic and global behavior of my visible tribe, the victorious paleskins. So I made a joke on Facebook the other day about hating white people and wanting 99 per cent of them out – citing UFC, Tim Horton's litter, imperialism and so on. This was met with disagreement from a couple strangers who claimed: "Christian values predominantly drove better behaviour, and better political evolutions of individual rights including representation, democratic values, policing, etc.," which a clever old friend had a field day shredding, popping stats about various vanilla European genocides, including the Holocaust. I threw in dropping not one but two atomic bombs on the Japanese for fun.

The point being, skin colour does not a pacifist make, of any shade.

The reason I bring all this up is because, right now, Alberta is being singled out with extreme prejudice, worldwide. Friends working overseas relate their origins and get a sneer and hear the word "tarsands" spit back at them. Now, if you're a person who's never once gone on about natives being lazy or Newfies being dumb, well, my sympathies here. Still, I mean, you know, 'I'm not racist', but them Albertans are destroying the fucking planet for a cheap buck, eh.

See how that works now?

NEWS · PUBLIC SAFETY · BY JOHN VANDENBELD | 571 words

Somebody's Watching You

SUCCESSFUL CURB THE DANGER PROGRAM PUTS EVERYONE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR DRUNK DRIVERS

Not drinking and driving should be as automatic as remembering to put on pants before you leave the house. Sadly, some folks still just don't get it. They get behind the wheel after having a few too many and then think it's okay to drive home. This also explains why the police are using every tool at their disposal to get drunks off the road.

One such tool is a program called "Curb the Danger", an award winning year-round Edmonton Police Service initiative in place since October 2006. The program is all about getting Edmonton drivers to report suspicious vehicular behavior to police, with the goal being to identify and charge more drunk drivers. In essence, Curb the Danger invites Edmontonians to be on the lookout for suspicious behavior, which may be indicative of an inebriated person behind the wheel.

But is the program working?

"Absolutely," says Barney Stevens, a retired EPS officer who helps out with Curb the Danger.

"The people of Edmonton have totally bought into this program. It's been great for the city, and resulted in getting a lot of drunk drivers off the road, drivers that might not have otherwise been caught." The numbers certainly seem to bear Stevens out: more than 27,700 calls have been made to EPS since the initiative began three years ago, with close to 10,000 calls this year alone. Also, since Curb the Danger began, impaired driving charges have shot up by 40 per cent in the city, according to EPS numbers. In November 2009, calls received as a result of Curb the Danger resulted in 94 impaired charges, 21 24-hour suspensions, and 153 letters to registered owners being mailed. (Not all calls are serious. After one woman was pulled over for erratic driving, it was revealed that her dicey driving was the result of trying to take off her bra while driving.)

But does Curb the Danger encourage Edmontonians to take the law into their own hands? To become the "wardens of the Whitemud? Sentinels of Stony Plain Road? Custodians of Calgary Trail? Well, no. For one, all the drivers do under the program is report. The police respond to the calls, and intercept the vehicles in real time, if possible. Of these interceptions, since Curb the Danger began in October 2006, roughly 40 per cent of all drivers have had their licences suspended, or have been charged with a DUI.

The other 60 per cent were, one assumes, just really shitty drivers.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M HEARING THESE STUPIDITIES.

— FORMER MONTREAL CANADIENS COACH AND NOW SENATOR JACQUES DEMERS, ON THE QUALITY OF DEBATE IN THE SENATE, QUOTED IN THE EDMONTON SUN DEC. 29.

ART GALLERY OPENING SIGNAL THAT 2010 SHOULD BE AN EXCITING YEAR FOR CITY

The Great Recession of 2008-09 seems to be behind us. While the economy is not what you'd call robust, it's certainly off its sick bed. And since so much of our well-being as a city depends on the economy, we will bid a not-so fond adieu to 2009, and welcome 2010 with more than a bit of optimism.

The new year will begin with the opening of a major cultural milestone for this city — the gleaming new Art Gallery of Alberta.

The $88-million gallery is already a centrepiece of the downtown, even before it has officially opened. Replacing the forbidding old gallery, with its appropriately named 'Brutalist' style, the new gallery is a signature building for this city. With its flowing stainless steel surfaces, the new AGA is a building Edmonton can be proud of. Yes, the cost is eye-popping, but this kind of world-class architecture doesn't come cheap. By investing so much precious capital in a "frill" (as some put it) like an art gallery, the city is making a statement that art matters to the residents of this frozen northern outpost.

2010 will almost certainly be the pivotal year for the proposed new arena for the city.

Edmonton Oiler owner Daryl Katz is pressing hard for a new home for his expensive (but not very entertaining) trinket. In fact, he may be pushing little too hard. There are still plenty of Edmontonians who feel a new arena is unnecessary, that the stodgy old Rexall Place/Skyreach Centre/Northlands Coliseum is plenty good enough, thank you. If Katz presses too hard, even with his offer of $100 million towards the building, he risks alienating a substantial sector of the population who either don't care about professional sports, or who can't afford to attend a hockey game.

But the naysayers must realize that a new arena is much more than just a home for the currently overpaid, underperforming local side. Like the art gallery, a new arena would be a showcase for the city and a landscape-changing development for Edmonton.

Then of course, there's the civic election. Pay attention, folks. This is important.

Mayor Stephen Mandel hasn't announced his intentions yet. Based on his comments in the papers of late, it sounds as if he still enjoys the job, but has grown tired of its rigours. Who can blame him?

If he decides to run — and our guess is that he will — Mandel will have to defend his legacy. Or, perhaps define it. Is Edmonton better off today than it was six years ago? As we get closer to the October election, Mandel's record will come under scrutiny.

But if he decides to run, chances are Mandel will run almost unopposed. It's damn near impossible to defeat an incumbent civic politician, unless he has worn out his welcome the way Bill Smith did when defeated by Mandel. If Mandel decides to run, strong mayoralty candidates may elect to sit out 2010 and wait until 2013, when Mandel is sure to step down. An uninspiring mayoralty race drags down the entire election.

And as for the rest of city council? As always, it's a mixed bag, but again as always, incumbency deters candidates from entering the fray. Too bad ... there are a few city councillors who should be looking for work in 2010.

BY THE NUMBERS • CAR TOON

WHEELS FELL OFF MIGHTY GENERAL MOTORS THIS DECADE
SOURCE: THE GLOBE AND MAIL

OUTSIDE POLITICS • **LOOKING AHEAD** | 844 words

Check Out My Crystal Ball

OUTSIDE POLITICS **MAURICE TOUGAS**

YOUR EXCLUSIVE FIRST LOOK AT THE EVENTS OF THE NEXT YEAR. RESULTS MAY VARY

Enough of this looking backwards stuff. I've got a stiff neck from looking behind me all week. So, let's gaze into my crystal ball and see what the future holds. (Please note: all predictions are just that. Predictions. Do not use this column for gambling purposes.)

On the civic scene, after months of being coy about his re-election plans, Mayor Stephen Mandel will finally announce that he will run for a third term. Days later, thousands of "Karen Liebovici for Mayor" signs will be found in a dumpster.

In an bold plan to advance his new arena agenda, Oilers owner and reclusive billionaire Daryl Katz will run for a seat on city council. In a world first, Katz will assign a proxy to stand in his place. Katz chooses former Oiler owner coach Craig MacTavish, since he's still under contract and needs something to do. Despite the most costly campaign in Edmonton history, Katz/MacTavish will come in last. Unrelated to the defeat, new plans for an arena will be announced for a location in Bruderheim.

A heavy snowstorm in January will result in an avalanche of "what do I pay my taxes for?" complaints about snow removal. Reacting to public discontent, the city will spend millions clearing every street of snow, and carting it away. Months later, the city will be flooded with complaints about "why are my taxes so high?" when the bill to clear the snow comes due.

Somewhere on Whyte Avenue, a bar will become inexplicably popular, resulting in long lines of would-be hipsters trying to get in. Six months later, the bar will close. No one will know why.

The Edmonton Oilers will continue to flounder until late in the season when a late burst of victories elevates them to 29th place, just outside the lottery position for one of the top draft picks.

Provincially, Ed Stelmach will decide it's time to rearrange his cabinet, which will inevitably be compared to rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic.

In a major cabinet shuffle, Stelmach will finally remove Ron Liepert from the health portfolio to advanced education. Within days, Liepert will announce a 10-per-cent tuition hike and the amalgamation of all post-secondary boards into one "super duper smart" board. Liepert will stir up a major controversy when he tells the legislature that "education isn't all it's cracked up to be. Look at me. I don't got no education, and I done fine." Liepert will enrage the post-secondary community to such a degree that Stelmach will perform a second cabinet shuffle, moving Liepert from advanced education to parliamentary secretary for the Minister of Paper Shuffling and Pillow Fluffing.

Wildrose Alliance leader Danielle Smith will announce a blue-ribbon panel that will investigate Alberta's oil royalty regime. It will be made up of the presidents of the largest oil companies in Alberta. Smith's popularity will soar to unprecedented heights.

TOUGAS cont'd on pg. 7

QUIZ • REMEMBERING THE DECADE • BY MAURICE TOUGAS | 980 words

Do You Remember the '00s?

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF EVENTS FROM 2000-09. ANSWERS TOP RIGHT OF PAGE.

YEAR 2000

1. What was the name of the little Cuban boy who was forcibly taken from relatives in Miami and returned to Cuba, causing an uproar?
2. Good grief! Name the beloved cartoonist who died the day after his final comic appeared.
3. Who got the most votes in the U.S. presidential election? And name the tiny piece of paper hanging off a ballot that figured prominently in the Florida vote count.
4. Name the politician who was elected the first leader of the Canadian Alliance, only to be roundly mocked when he held a press conference wearing a wetsuit after riding on a jet ski.
5. At what Alberta lake did a tornado touch down, killing 11?

YEAR 2001

1. Ralph Klein's Conservatives won another majority in March. Who was the Liberal leader at the time?
2. Name the press baron and future jailbird who renounced his Canadian citizenship so he could accept a seat in the British House of Lords.
3. How many Canadians died in the attacks of Sept. 11?
4. Why do we have to take off our shoes at airport security?
5. What white powder suddenly started appearing in the mail in the U.S., causing many deaths and widespread panic?

YEAR 2002

1. What resort in Alberta was host to the G8 summit?
2. Who are Sergey Brin and Larry Page?
3. What Canadian sporting tradition began at the Salt Lake City Olympics?
4. What world leader celebrated 50 years on the job?
5. Name the two Canadian political parties that changed leaders in 2002.

YEAR 2003

1. Name the space shuttle that blew up upon reentry, killing seven astronauts.
2. Two acronyms became familiar in 2003 – SARS and BSE. What do they stand for?
3. What did the ironic banner behind George Bush say when the president declared the war in Iraq to be over?
4. When the U.S. invaded Iraq, what were they looking for, but did not find?

II. What was the name of the U.S. prison in Bagdad that became notorious when the torture of inmates was revealed?

YEAR 2004

1. A scandal over the misuse of government funds dogged the government of Paul Martin. What name did this scandal go by?
2. Which social networking site made its debut this year?
3. What legendary line of automobiles was produced for the last time?
4. What natural event cause widespread damage in Edmonton?
5. As the result of public voting based on a CBC show, who was named The Greatest Canadian?

YEAR 2005

1. Somehow, Canada survived this unprecedented calamity.
2. Name the four Mounties killed by James Rosko in Mayerthorpe.
3. For a while, this woman was the hottest name in Canadian politics when she crossed the floor from the Conservatives to the Liberals for a cabinet seat. What was her name?
4. Pope Benedict XVI succeeds Pope John Paul II. What was Pope Benedict's real name?
5. Name the notorious Canadian female criminal who was set free after serving 12 years for manslaughter in the deaths of three teenage girls, one of them her sister.

YEAR 2006

1. Stephen Harper wins his first minority government. Whom did he beat, and how many seats did his Conservatives win?
2. The World Cup of soccer final became infamous for one headstrong moment from this superstar.
3. Stephen Harper issued an apology to which group for an historical wrong?
4. Which film, written and directed by Canadian Paul Haggis, won the 2006 best picture Oscar?
5. The federal Liberals named this tweedy academic as its new leader.

YEAR 2007

1. Mounties tasered Polish immigrant Robert Dziekanski at Vancouver airport, which led to his death, because he was brandishing what 'weapon'?
2. The last book in the Harry Potter series is released. Name it.
3. This Canadian, sentenced to hang in 1959 for murder while he was just a teenager, is officially acquitted of the crime. What was his name?
4. One of the worst shooting rampages in American history left 32 people dead at which college?
5. Which Canadian law, introduced by Stephen Harper this year, did he break the following year?

YEAR 2008

1. An outbreak of listeriosis caused 23 deaths across Canada. What company was involved in the outbreak?
2. What did Stephen Harper convince Gov.-Gen. Michele Jean to do to Parliament to prevent an election?
3. What was the cause of actor Heath Ledger's death?
4. How many gold medals did American swimmer Michael Phelps win the Olympics, which was a record?

II. How much did the U.S. Treasury spend on purchasing the assets of failing banks?

YEAR 2009

1. George Bush chose this Canadian city for his first post-presidency speaking engagement.
2. A U.S. Airways jet crash lands in Hudson River in New York City; all 155 people on board survived. Who was the 'hero' pilot?
3. What is the official police verdict on the death of Michael Jackson?
4. Name the former Conservative MP from Edmonton who was charged with cocaine possession and drunk driving.

II. How many albums did Billboard's band of the decade, Nickleback, sell in the past 10 years?

QUIZ ANSWERS

YEAR 2000
1. Elian Gonzales
2. Charles Schulz: creator of *Peanuts*
3. Gore won the popular vote 48.4 per cent to 47.9 per cent, but lost in the electoral college. And the paper was called a hanging chad.
4. Stockwell Day
5. Pine Lake

YEAR 2001
1. Nancy Betkiewitz, who lost her own seat in Edmonton
2. Conrad Black
3. 24
4. Because a would-be terrorist smuggled a bomb inside his shoe on a flight from Paris to Miami. (did not go off. But our shoes will.
5. Anthrax

YEAR 2002
1. Whistler
2. The co-founders of Google
3. Lesbians
4. Queen Elizabeth II. Queen of Canada and elsewhere
5. Joe Clark stepped down as leader of what was left of the Progressive Conservative party, and Stephen Harper took over leadership of the Canadian Alliance.

YEAR 2003
1. Columbia
2. SARS stands for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, which the Toronto outbreak put public health and public relations nightmare
3. Wisdom Accordingbed
4. Weapons of mass destruction, which turned out to be weapons of mass distraction
5. Abu Ghraib

YEAR 2004
1. Adscam
2. The sponsorship scandal, or Adscam.
3. Facebook
4. Obnoxious
5. Tommy Douglas, former Saskatchewan premier and father of medicare

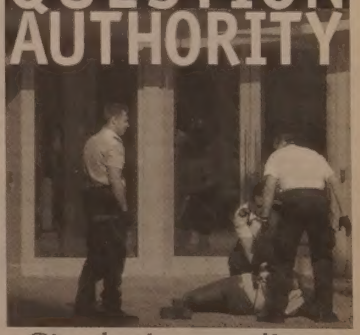
YEAR 2005
1. The NHL season was cancelled over a labour dispute
2. Peter Schiemann, Leslie Johnston, Anthony Gordon, Brock Myrol
3. Belinda Stronach
4. Joseph Ratzinger
5. Karla Homolka

YEAR 2006
1. Paul Martin's 124
2. French superstar Zinedine Zidane headbutted Italy defender Marco Materazzi, getting tossed from the final
3. He apologized for the Chinese for the head tax
4. Crash
5. Stéphane Dion

YEAR 2007
1. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows
2. Henry Potter and the Deathly Hallows
3. Steven Truscott
4. Virginia Tech
5. Fixed election dates

YEAR 2008
1. A leaper leeks food plant in Toronto
2. Parliament was prorogued.
3. Accidental abuse of prescription medications
4. 8 gold
5. $700 billion

YEAR 2009
1. Calgary
2. Chelley Sullenberger
3. Homicide
4. Rahim Jafari
5. Too many ... but, for the record, 21 million



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TOUGAS (cont'd from pg.6)

The Stelmach government will introduce a bill that will enrage _____ (fill in name of group) and lead to hours of debate in the legislature. The bill will pass, and soon enough everyone will go onto the next outrage. Edmonton Tory MLAs will ask a series of hard-hitting questions on topics as varied as "why is this government so wonderful," and "who is your favourite Jonas Brother."

On the national scene, Stephen Harper will continue his remarkable roll.

Following on the success of his performance of a Beatles song at the National Arts Centre in 2009, Harper will continue his "humanization" project by making cameo appearances at a number of other high-profile locations. Harper will briefly travel with U2 on their Canadian tour, sing "Raise a Little Hell" with Trooper at Casino-Rama in Windsor, Ont., and tell a series of off-colour jokes at a "Roast of Rex Murphy" held in Corner Brook, N. L. Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff, meanwhile, will attempt to soften his personality by trying to smile without frightening small children. It will not be successful.

With his popularity soaring, Harper will attempt to force an election by creating a non-confidence vote in the House of Commons. The Tories will introduce a series of progressively more right-wing bills that the Liberals will twist themselves into progressively more intricate knots to support, resulting in a de facto majority for the Conservatives. The New Democrats will become even more pious than usual, and the Bloc Quebecois will just go along for the ride. There will be a late election in 2010, but Harper will fall one seat short of a majority when a safe Conservative seat goes Green after the Tory candidate is overheard saying that he likes polar bears, but only if they're barbecued.

DINING · YEAR IN REVIEW · BY SCOTT LINGLEY | 1,136 words

Down Gastronome Alley

OUR MAN LINGLEY LOOKS BACK AT HIS MOST MEMORABLE MEALS OF 2009

After a gastronomically extravagant 2008, the past year saw a scaling back on the fancier dining options, and a resurgence of distinctive, satisfying ethnic eateries. It wasn't easy, but I've sauntered down memory lane and retrieved memorable moments from my year of eating.

The year got off to a running start at Wild Tangerine Cucina Domestica (10388-112th St.), home of attractively mod décor and trendsetting Asian fusion cuisine. Take, for example, their mind-blowing slow-roasted marsala-masala lamb loin chops, seamless conflation of east and west and the most delicious meat I can remember consuming all year.

In February, I recall my last meal at Café Mosaics (10944-82nd Ave.) under the ownership that turned the southside veggie restaurant into a national landmark. The Shenkarek family finally moved on to other ventures, bequeathing to their loyal patrons almost 12 years of great memories. The food, the friends, the music, the art, the bottles of Pilsner – it sets the mind to reeling. My last visit featured my perennial favourite, the bean burrito with egg, fresh-made salsa, a big glob of sour cream and a lime wedge. Even knowing all the ingredients, I never understood how the fabulous kitchen ladies of Mosaics made it taste so good together. But it did. Thanks for everything.

Wandering the seedier end of 124th Street last May, I noticed a new Ethiopian joint called Nigist (12424-118th Ave.) sandwiched between a couple of taverns, marking the beginning of an Ethiopian lucky streak that ran through Nyala (10875-98th St.) and Habesha (9515-118th Ave.). Nigist lacks something in the splendour department, but the personable service and authentic food make up for it.

My most memorable brunch took place in April at Tazza Mediterranean Cafe in Le Marchand Mansion (11523-100th Ave.). Tazza's abundant fattoush salad, stacked with romaine, pita crisps, copious sliced veggies, pomegranate seeds and a bale of fresh herbs, and a small plate of cheese and/or spinach-filled pastries were all the excuse I needed to skip a planned trip to the gym.

In May I was back on that same seedy part of 124th Street testing out the newly renovated Kamil's Turkish Café (12408-118th Ave). Our server was about 11 years old, the soup was cold and the entrees took forever, but the beyti – seasoned grilled beef rolled in layers of dough, baked and smothered in garlicky tomato sauce and yogurt – was worth every second of the wait and then some.

I'm not sure why it took me until June to finally make it to Ragazzi Bistro Italiano (8110-82nd Ave.) in Bonnie Doon, having heard they make handcrafted pies in the league of the legendary Tony's Pizza. When our "Godfather" pizza, bedecked with prosciutto, capicolli, red chilies and just the right amount of blended Italian cheeses, landed on the table, I realized I'd been waiting too long.

Back home in August after a trip to Vietnam, I reacquainted myself with the garlicky charms of La Shish Taouk (10106-118th St.) that, despite appearances, is many, many cuts above your average donair shop. The eponymous platter is skewered cubes of grilled seasoned chicken served over aromatic rice pilaf with tabouleh salad, pita and a very potent garlic sauce, as well as some nice Lebanese pickles.

With the onset of autumn I harkened back to my summer adventures abroad and was thrilled to stumble upon a Vietnamese noodle house that transported me with its authentic approach to pho. Since finding it in September, I've returned to Thài Binh's discreet location in the heart of Queen Mary Park (11220-109th Ave.) for another dose of their outstanding beef noodle soup and a side of spring rolls.

In October, I enjoyed the enchiladas poblanas – soft tortillas filled with chicken, lightly crisscrossed with shreds of melted brick cheese a lolling in a pool of dark, rich sauce – at Don Antonio's (10750-124th St.). In a town where Chili's passes for a reasonable Mexican option, the Don's cozy dining room and home cooking make for a welcome oasis.

November saw the venerable vegan outlet Padmanadi (10626-97th St.) celebrate seven years in business with an all-you-can-eat buffet that drew huge crowds. In a way, the fact that the Kasim family's restaurant eschews all traces of animal cruelty in its offerings is beside the point. Dishes like the spicy eggplant and the mock chicken curry with potatoes are plain old delicious food.

Returning yet again to 124th Street, I ended the year on a triumphant note with the discovery of Midnight Sun (11003-124th St.), the Chinese take-out place of my dreams. I've searched high and low for a place that will bring me top quality hot and sour soup, satay beef and vegetables in black bean sauce when I'm too afflicted to get off the couch, and Midnight Sun does it all.

RESTAURANT GUIDE

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EVENTS

ART THERAPY INFORMATION SESSION *ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE, 8810-112 ST. JAN 6* Information about art therapy and the graduate training program at St. Stephen's College. 1 p.m. Info: 439-7311.

ART FOR LUNCH *ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA, #2 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE DEC 31* Impressionist inspired Monoprints with Lee Bale and Nicole Reeves. 12:10 p.m. Info: 422-6223.

ARTS MARKET *CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEE HOUSE, 9351-118 AVE.* Artists and artisans sharing unique gifts with local flavour. Every Sat. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info: www.thecarrot.ca.

BIG NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH *THE BEER HUNTER, 386 ST. ALBERT RD, ST. ALBERT DEC 31* Info: 418-7867.

BLACK AND WHITE NIGHT *ENCORE CLUB, #116, 957-FIR ST. DEC 31* 9 p.m. Info: theencoreclub.com/417-0111.

CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S IN FIVE TIME ZONES *RIVER CREE RESORT AND CASINO, WHITEMUD DR. & WINTERBURN RD. ENOCH DEC 31* Five different cash prizes draws throughout the night. Info: 484-2121/rivercreeresort.com.

EDMONTON INTERNATIONAL NEW YEAR'S VARIETY SHOW *MARRIOTT (RIVER CREE RESORT AND CASINO) WHITEMUD DR. & WINTERBURN RD, ENOCH DEC 31* With comedian Derek Edwards, and DJ Tomski. 8 p.m. Info: 484-2121?/www.rivercreeresort.com.

ENCHANTED FOREST *DOW CENTENNIAL CENTRE, 8700-84 ST, FORT SASKATCHEWAN TO JAN 10* Christmas tree display. Info: www.fortsask.ca.

FARMER'S MARKET *ALBERTA AVENUE HALL, 9218-118 AVE.* Every Thu, year round. 2 p.m.

FREE FAMILY ART NIGHTS *NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE, 9704-111 AVE.* For Parents and children up to 17. Every Thu. 6:30 p.m. Info: 474-7611.

LATIN NEW YEARS *DELTA EDMONTON SOUTH (GRANDE BALLROOM), 4404 GATEWAY BLVD. DEC 31* Dinner, dance, and live entertainment. 6 p.m. Tickets: www.tixonthesquare.ca.

NEW YEAR CARNIVAL *UNF HALL, 10629-98 ST. DEC 31* Hosted by the Ukrainian Women's Organization, and the Ukrainian National Federation. 8 p.m. Tickets: 424-1777/456-5196/478-6707.

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER *SAGE (RIVER CREE RESORT AND CASINO), WHITEMUD DR. & WINTERBURN RD. DEC 31* Three and four course meals.6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Info:950-2636.

NEW YEAR'S EVE DOWNTOWN *SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE DEC 31* A family event with skating at City Hall, a street dance on the square, and live entertainment. Fireworks at midnight. Info: eventsedmonton.ca/nyed.php/423-2822.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY *COOK COUNTY SALOON, 8010-103 ST. DEC 31* Dinner hosted by Vons Steakhouse.Info: cookcountysaloon.com/432-2665.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY *EMPIRE BALLROOM (WEM) DEC 31* Playboy Mansion theme. 7 p.m. Info: 486-9494.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PUB CRAWL *VARIOUS LOCATIONS DEC 31* 7 p.m. Info: www.oilcitypubcrawls.com.

NEW YEAR'S WITH SABOR DIVINO *SABOR DIVINO, 10220-103 ST. DEC 31* With Jeff Hendrick and the Love Jones Band, live DJ, and three course meal. Info: 757-1114/sabordivino.ca.

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT JUBILATIONS *JUBILATIONS DINNER THEATRE(WEM) DEC 31* Dinner with live entertainment. Info: jubilations.ca/484-2424.

OPULENCE NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY *LUX STEAKHOUSE & BAR, COMMERCE PLACE, 10150-101 ST. DEC 31* Info: century-hospitality.com/424-0400.

RED AND BLACK NEW YEAR'S GALA *RED PIANO CAJUN BISTRO & DUELING PIANO BAR(WEM) DEC 31* With live dueling pianos, dinner, and entertainment. Info: 486-7722/theredpiano.ca.

ROLL INTO 2010 *SPORTSWORLD, 13710-104 ST. DEC 31* Roller skating disco party. 7 p.m. Info: 472-63377/sports-world.ca.

SPORTSWORLD ROLLER SKATING DISCO *SPORTS-WORLD, 13710-104 ST.* Fridays at 7 p.m. Saturdays at 1 p.m., and 7 p.m. Sundays at 1 p.m. Info: www.sports-world.ca.

VANITY NEW YEAR'S EVE *HUNDRED BAR AND GRILL, 100 ST, RICE HOWARD WAY DEC 31* Info: century.hospitality.com/425-0100.

WINTER LIGHT FESTIVAL *VARIOUS LOCATIONS JAN 6-MAR 13* Info: www.winterlight.ca.

YEAR ENDER BENDER *VARIOUS LOCATIONS DEC 31* Pub crawl. 6 p.m. Info: edmontonpubcrawls.com.

MEETINGS

AWA 12 STEP SUPPORT GROUP *BRAESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, #6 BERNARD DR, ST. ALBERT* A weekly meeting to support members of alcoholic and dysfunctional families. Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION *CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION, 10045-111 ST.* Weekly drop-in support group. Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Info: 414-6311.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS *MISERICORDIA HOSPITAL, 16940-87 AVE.* Weekly support meetings. Saturdays at 11 a.m. Info: 423-2546.

TOURETTE SYNDROME *ACADEMY OF KING EDWARD, 8525-101 ST.* A support group for parents. First Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m. Info: 1-866-824-9764.

LEARNING

ARGENTINE TANGO CLASSES WITH CRISTINA & VICENTE *ORANGE HALL, 10335-84 AVE.* Beginners, intermediate/advance. Mondays at 7:30 p.m. Info: 905- 8505/vamtango@yahoo.ca.

BEYOND THE TREES *TELUS WORLD OF SCIENCE, 11211-142 ST. TO APR 5* An exhibit focusing on the natural heritage of our varied forests in Canada. Info: www.edmontonscience.com.

EDMONTON YO-YO CLUB *(WEM) DEC 10* Saturdays at 1 p.m. Outside of T & T Supermarket.

FERTILITY AWARENESS CHARTING CIRCLE *BLOCK 1912, 10361 WHYTE AVE.* An information session on reproductive health through all stages of a woman's life. First Wednesday of every month. 6:30 p.m. Info: www.fertilityawareness-chartingcircle.org.

GENEALOGY OPEN HOUSE *STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY, #7 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE* A series on the subject. Fridays at 5 p.m.

LATIN NIGHT *FUNKY BUDDHA, 10341 WHYTE AVE.* Dance lessons. Wednesdays at 9 p.m. Info: 433-9676.

LEARN MORRIS DANCE *#19 KEEGANO HALL, RICHFIELD RD. & 36A AVE.* Free Lessons. Saturdays at 10 a.m. Info: 475-1826.

MEDITATION AND BUDDHIST PRACTICE *KARMA TASHI LING, 10502-70 AVE.* Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Info: www.karmatashiling.ca.

OLD TYME FIDDLE JAM *PLEASANTVIEW COMMUNITY HALL, 10860-57 AVE.* Free fiddle lessons. Mondays at 7 p.m. Info: 456-8510.

PAUL SVEEN TEACHES STAND UP COMEDY *THE LAUGH SHOP, 2ND FLOOR, 10368 WHYTE AVE.* Call for details on next class. Info: www.thelaughshop.ca/476-1010.

THE SCIENCE OF TOYS *TELUS WORLD OF SCIENCE, 11211-142 ST. TO JAN 3* Taking a look at the way toys are created. 12 p.m. Info: www.edmontonscience.com.

SWING DANCE AT SUGAR FOOT STOMP *ORANGE HALL, 10335-84 AVE.* Beginner lessons followed by dance. Every Sat. 8 p.m.

TANGO CLASSES *ORANGE HALL, 10335-84 AVE.* Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. Info: 905-8505.

WITH A LATIN TWIST *ENCORE CLUB, #116,957-FIR ST.* Salsa dance lessons. Thursdays at 9 p.m.

WRITER'S CIRCLE *CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEE HOUSE, 9351-118 AVE.* Writing workshop every Tue of month. 7 p.m.

QUEER

BOOK WORM'S BOOK CLUB *SECOND CUP (112 ST. & JASPER AVE.)* Every Wednesday. 7:30 p.m. Info: bookworm@teamedmonton.ca.

COFFEE & OPEN MIC NIGHT *PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.* Saturdays at 4 p.m. Info: 488-3234.

COUNSELLING PROGRAMS *PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.* Pride Centre of Edmonton provides counselling by professionals at no cost to clients. Held on the first Sat of the month from 2 to 5 p.m. Info: 488-3234.

D.I.Y. WEDNESDAYS *PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.* Various do it yourself projects. 3 p.m. Info: 488-3234.

DRAG QUEEN PERFORMANCE SHOW *BUDDY'S PUB, 11725B JASPER AVE.* Sundays at 9 p.m.

GLBT SPORTS AND RECREATION-BOOTCAMP *ST. ALPHONSUS, 11624-81 ST.* Mondays at 7 p.m. Info: bootcamp@teamedmonton.ca

GAMES & COFFEE *PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.* Thursdays at 4 p.m. Info: 488-3234.

ILLUSIONS SOCIAL CLUB: CROSSDRESSERS MEET MONTHLY *VARIOUS LOCATIONS* Info: www.groups.yahoo.com/group/edmonton_illusions/387-3343.

LIVING POSITIVE *#404, 10408-124 ST.* Confidential support group for people living with HIV. Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Info: 877-975-9448/488-5768.

MEN TALKING WITH PRIDE *PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.* A social discussion group for gay, bisexual and transgendered men to discuss current issues and to offer support to each other. Every Sun. 7 p.m.

SENIORS DROP-IN *PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.* A social and support group for seniors of all genders and sexualities to talk, have tea and offer each other support. Every Tue and Thu. 1 p.m. Info: tuff@shaw.ca.

TTIQ *PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.* A mixed gender open support group addressing the needs of transsexual and transgendered individuals. First and third Sun of month. 12 p.m. Info: admin@pridecentreofedmonton.org.

WOMONSPACE BOARD MEETING *PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.* A social and recreational society run by volunteers to provide opportunities for lesbians to interact and support each other in a safe environment. First Sun of month. 10:30 a.m. Info: wspresident@hotmail.com.

YOUTH MOVIE *PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.* Movie chosen by youth (aged 14-25), usually with LGBT themes. Popcorn is served. Fridays at 6:30 p.m. Info: brendan@pridecentreofedmonton.org.

YOUTH UNDERSTANDING YOUTH *PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.* Every Saturday at 7 p.m. Info: www.yuyedm.ca/248-1971.

ACTIVISM

EDMONTON SMALL PRESS ASSOCIATION *UPPER CRUST CAFÉ, 10909-86 AVE.* An activist arts organization, seeking socially conscious artists, and production volunteers on an ongoing basis. Wed at 7 pm. Info: 434-9236.

PEACE AMBASSADORS INITIATIVE *ROUGE LOUNGE, 10111-117 ST.* A youth group promoting anti-racist and diversity workshops. Mondays 5-7 pm. Education North 4-104, U of A Campus Info: 425-4644.

THOUGHTFUL TUESDAY DOCUMENTARY SERIES *STEEPS TEA LOUNGE11116 WHYTE AVE.* Every Tuesday. Screenings free. Info: 988-8105 or michaelk@steepstea.com.

"SEEMS LIKE THAT OLD ADAGE ABOUT **DYING BEING GOOD FOR YOUR CAREER** IS STILL TRUE.

MUSIC · YEAR IN REVIEW · BY KATHLEEN BELL | 815 words

Harper Plays, Gaga Stays, And RIP King Of Pop

FROM HEARTWARMING TO DISHEARTENING, CRAZY TO FREAKY, HERE ARE SEE'S PICKS FOR 2009'S MOST "SERIOUSLY?!?!" MOMENTS IN MUSIC

10) ***Give me something to make***: Bob Dylan makes a Christmas album. Weezer makes the 'Wuggie'. *Glee* makes two soundtrack albums. Susan Boyle makes it big. Good or bad, it was a very productive year.

9) **Stephen Harper tickles the ivories**: I found Harper's performance of "A Little Help From My Friends" at the National Arts Centre astonishing for three reasons. A) He knows how to play an instrument. Meaning, B) he does, in fact, appreciate the arts (or at least the Beatles). Resulting in C) that this little display made me like him more.

8) **The City of Edmonton is hip to the hip-hop**: When city council named Roland Pemberton III its new Poet Laureate, it left some media outlets scrambling to figure out who this Pemberton fellow was, while councillors were filling in the blanks. Having a Polaris prize-nominated, Pitchfork-approved rapper named our artistic flag bearer was as unexpected as it was pretty damn cool. Do you think Mayor Stephen Mandel gets his parties started with a cut from Afterparty Babies?

7) **Lonely Island and T-Pain on their boat**: Nominated for Best Rap/Sung Collaboration at the upcoming Grammys alongside heavy hitters like Jay-Z and Kanye West, "I'm On A Boat" is not only a fantastic parody of hip-hop's manic materialism, but kind of a great song too. Its influence has lasted far beyond your average viral video – "I'm On A Boat" is part of the vernacular, completely dominating Facebook summer photo albums with captions, like "me and my flippy floppies" and "Look at me! I'm on a motherfucking boat."

6) **That's Edmonton For You! collection and concert**: This was a highly successful musical initiative commissioned by The City of Edmonton, out sourced to The Edmonton Arts Council and executed by a battalion of Edmonton's finest artists. It was intended to bring awareness to environmental issues; however, it definitely brought awareness to Edmonton's music scene. Not only was it a fine day out in June, but also, the songs that remain are a stellar set of tunes.

Farewell to the King of Pop | Michael Jackson's death is overshadowed by the media mayhem. PHOTO SUPPLIED

5) **Adam Lambert banned from primetime**: "I Kissed a Girl" makes Katy Perry a superstar in 2008 but kissing a guy in 2009 gets you pulled from the TV landscape. Double-standard much? Overreact much? Admittedly, there was a serious naughty factor to Lambert's AMA performance, complete with leashes, women being dragged across the floor and rape-esque lyrics, but it's not like ABC is some bastion of morality and propriety. Let's face it, the only thing they were upset about was that kiss. The lyrics, the dragging, and cane humping? That was all pre-approved.

4) **Lady Gaga**: I don't mean some specific incident, but the whole Gaga package. According to her *Rolling Stone* cover, before she was famous, The Lady used to order cocaine to her Manhattan apartment, get high and then do her hair and make up for hours. And apparently she kinda, sorta misses those days. Whether you applaud or jeer her sense of style, you can't argue with the fact that she's made pop music and the music video exciting again. She beautifies the grotesque. Glamourizes neck braces and bandages. Blends haute couture with cheap dance beats and somehow all this has proliferated the mainstream.

3) **Chris Brown attacks Rihanna**: So all that 'bitches and hoes' talk in (some) rap music finally hit the news, in a tragic and stomach-turning front page headline. Does this mean the genre will stop defending the veneration of violence? Hopefully. But Rihanna fought back, trouncing Brown in record sales and critical approval when their latest releases went head to head.

2) **The Kanye West/Taylor Swift fiasco**: MyTwitBook was alight with West hatred after he interrupted the wide-eyed Swift's MTV win. But, seriously, it's shocking that anyone is shocked by Kanye's tantrums anymore – he likes to express himself, whatcha gonna do? Lady Gaga was, literally, dangling from a rope oozing fake blood later that night and "I'm gonna let you finish" is what we took away from the evening. I find this perplexing.

1) **Michael Jackson does his last moonwalk**: On June 24 he was Wacko-Jacko. On June 25 he was being glorified as the King of Pop … again. Seems that old adage about dying being good for your career is still true. The revisionist history was an interesting phenom and maybe remembering what was best, is a far far better thing than remembering what was. But excessive coverage, from 24-hour funeral plot surveillance to dissecting the divvying up of the Jackson estate, was really what made this the most disturbing and confusing musical moment of 2009. After the tributes and eulogies, even kings deserve to rest in peace.

One Love, One Heart | France's most famous DJ David Guetta brings the love to the EEC on New Year's Day PHOTO SUPPLIED

HOT TICKETS · THIS WEEK'S MUST-SEE SHOWS

David Guetta brings *One Love*

EEC | Jan. 1

Celebrate the first day of 2010 with *One Love*, the current tour of world-renowned French DJ and producer David Guetta. His fourth studio album of the same name was unleashed back in August and the electronic superstar is approaching the Grammys at the end of January with five nominations, including two for his work with Black Eyed Peas' single "I Gotta Feeling." Guetta (pronounced GET-ah) was raised in Paris and began mixing in 1980 at the age of 13. He's a founding force of House music and a celebrity force the world over. But with hot, upbeat mixes, he's one of your best bets for the new year.

The NYE 2009 Party

The Starlite Room | Dec. 31

What are you going to do with your final day of 2009? Claiming to be THE party of the night, this year's shindig at the Starlite Room just may be the party to be at. While not the fanciest, glittziest, most glamorous event for the occasion, rocking out with a bunch of bands will be much more fitting than stilettos and spaghetti straps on a cold December night. Tickets are just $10 for three rooms filled with 10 DJs and a healthy helping of live music – Raygun Cowboys, Old Wives, Sally's Knackers, The Blame-It's, Down the Hatch, Rumble Strippers and Fire Next Time – born and raised in our back yard.

Jesus Christ Superstar

Jubilee Auditorium | Jan. 2-3

Someone from Edmonton's theatre community mentioned a boon in musicals as of late. So it's hardly a surprise to find not one, but two pieces from Andrew Lloyd Webber playing on local stages. *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* closes at Festival Place on Jan. 3. But if you're looking for something a little more mature, check out *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Webber's first collaboration with Tim Rice. With five Tony Award nominations to its name, *JCS* was ground breaking as the original rock opera in 1971 and has grown to become a classic piece of musical theatre.

MUSIC · DECADE · BY MARK KANDBORG | 658 words

The Decade The Music Died

WITH NO CLEAR "SOUND OF THE DECADE", SEE'S MARK KANDBORG ASKS IF WE'VE LOST OUR VOICE

Music is everywhere, there's no denying it. Could it be, that as a result, it's now nowhere? Has music transcended genre? Or are genres emerging, fusing and dissipating so quickly that the concept itself has been rendered meaningless?

Let's review. The 1940s gave us Big Bands, Swing and the American Songbook. The '50s saw jazz evolve into several distinct genres, but let's pick one – Bebop. A little thing called Rock and Roll emerged, too. The '60s exploded with Folk, the British Invasion, Motown, true Electric and Psychedelic Rock.

The '70s is thought of as the Disco Era, but actually spawned Punk, New Wave, Soul, Funk and Fusion. The '80s gave us a distinct sound, fueled primarily by the invention of the polyphonic synthesizer. For the first time you could play chords with a synth, and every band in the western world seemed to build their sound around it. We also got Girl Bands, New Age and Rap.

The '90s saw the emergence of World Music, Grunge, Goth, Industrial, Techno/Electronica/Trance/House/Ambient, Acid Jazz and Hip Hop.

I've left out a lot, but you get the picture. Shit was happening. Every decade of the 20th century has had warring factions of musical radicals with something to say, fighting for new ways of saying it.

Until now. This past decade, while far from silent, seems to have been, at best, mumbling incoherently.

Don't misunderstand me. I'm not saying there's a lack of talent, or a lack of "product." What I'm saying is that the collective musical pastiche is failing to gel into anything distinctive, unique. This decade seems to have no voice.

The music business is huge, and music itself is everywhere, but what have we got? New Country is really 20 years old. New Folk is really just recent folk. Nothing new there. Nickleback? Loverboy meets Pearl Jam (boy, am I gonna get letters). The biggest band in the world is Coldplay. Aren't they just U2 without the street cred? Alt Rock? Emo? Somebody give me something I can hold on to. Far from a voice in the wilderness, I'm listening for a voice in the cacophony.

I thought maybe I was just missing something, so I picked up a copy of *The Globe and Mail* devoted entirely to "decoding the decade." Section after section about everything that the past 10 years has produced of note, from geopolitics to fashion. Not a word about music, per se. A few points about the convulsing music biz paradigm, but nothing about the music itself. Oh wait – there was one article about opera. Opera!

Please, don't let this be the era characterized by Tegan and Sara. Or Auto-Tune.

Then it hit me. Maybe this isn't the era of nothing. Maybe this is the end of an era. Maybe that's what the voice is mumbling.

Malcolm Gladwell in his book *Outliers* talks about societal context, that talent alone simply can't make a difference. We are now bathed in music. Satellite radio, streaming, sharing, downloading, MySpace, YouTube. The entire Beatles catalogue has just been released on a USB key. The floodgates have opened. More importantly, the album is gone, replaced by the 32-gig playlist. Individually assembled and, more than we'd like to admit, somewhat random, the *Musica Encyclopedae* in our ears is so vast and ever-changing that no artist or group of artists can hope to create something that "sticks." The critical mass required for a distinct genre to coalesce, emerge and take root requires focus and attention. Our focus and attention.

So, is the musical genre dead? Time, as they say, will tell. A pattern may still emerge from the static. But we need to listen. And if you hear something, stand the fuck up. It needs you.

THIS PAST DECADE, WHILE FAR FROM SILENT, SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN, AT BEST, MUMBLING INCOHERENTLY.

MUSIC · QUOTES · BY KATHLEEN BELL | 430 words

So Say We All

SEE WRITERS TALK TO A BUNCH OF COOL PEOPLE EVERY YEAR. HERE ARE SOME OF THE BEST THINGS THEY HEARD

Patriotic Fervor | The Trews' Colin MacDonald on Canadian musicians. Photo Supplied

ON CANADIAN MUSIC:

"I think Canadians are amongst the best songwriters in the world. Heck, even Dylan was in Minnesota, which might as well be Canada. We've produced some of the greatest and enduring song writing of the 20th Century. Robbie Robertson wrote the best song about the south rising again. A guy with Native American roots in Canada wrote the best song about Dixie, you know? I think that Canadian music is about the song writing and the songs. For such a small population and the amount of output in terms of timeless music in song writing it's actually quite incredible."

–Colin MacDonald, The Trews

ON BAD CHOICES:

"I think that living a life as a working musician is a pretty dubious choice, it's led to most of the problems I have in my life."

–Nik Kozub, Shout Out Out Out Out

ON THE WORST THING TO YELL OUT AT A CONCERT:

"When you're playing total full on dance music and someone either shouts out or passes you a napkin that says 'play something we can dance too.' That's kind of a drag. It's like, 'what do ya mean? That's what we're trying to do!'"

–Nik Kozub, Shout Out Out Out Out

ON THE BEST THING TO YELL OUT AT A CONCERT:

"We always really like it when people come up with rhythmic chants of our band name, that gets us going for sure. It seems to happen a lot here in Edmonton and a few other places too. Sometimes you go to another city and someone has some weird rhythmic take on how to chant your name. Especially when they squish all the 'outs' together and say them in rapid secession."

–Nik Kozub, Shout Out Out Out Out

ON POETRY:

"Poems get to the heart of the matter really quick. At the best of times, anyway, I think in poetry. I think a lot of people do. Instead of being bogged down by complete sentences, we just kind of think in images. I find it very visceral."

–Tim Baker, Hey Rosetta!

ON ROCK N' ROLL:

"Total freedom. No boundaries. You can say whatever the hell you want. You say it how you want to say it. To me that's the definition of rock and roll. This is me with no tethers, not following any rules."

–Colleen Brown, The Secretaries

12 o'clock
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THURSDAY DECEMBER 31
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12 o'clock
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS NEW YEARS?

MUSIC · GOODBYE | 623 words

To The Dearly Departed

WILDLIFE FISH GRIWKOWSKY

FISH GETS MUSHY AS WE BID FAREWELL TO THE YEAR OF THE SWORD, AND TO SOME GOOD FRIENDS TOO.

Let's get maudlin! C'mon, it's good fun – the Year of the Sword is almost done! After it hacked everything to pieces, maybe we should start by first taking stock of our departed troops.

And so, goodbye, 2009. Goodbye, Vic Chesnutt, who drifted away to a quiet peace. Goodbye, Farrah Fawcett, she ■ the ubiquitous posters on our older brothers' walls. Goodbye, Patrick Swayze, secret star of *Donnie Darko*. And adieu to Les Paul. And John Updike and Maurice Jarre. John Hughes, too, whose racism-peppered teen films nonetheless defined us. Goodbye, David Carradine, with final days including an appearance at a bocce court in Edmonton, dear lord. Goodbye, Dom LeLuise, Bea Arthur, Ted Kennedy, Pat Hingle – each bearing these amazing faces from another epoch, almost entirely erased now, where the etched lines of character made a person recognizable against a world where every starlet now looks like an underage porn star.

Goodbye, Patrick McGoohan and Ricardo Montalbon, two of our favourite nerd icons. Sorry the new *Prisoner* and *Star Trek* favoured flash over actual narrative sense, but these cash-ins only made your work look better. And at least you don't have to see how they completely shallow-down the Khan story. Ricardo. So strange the porn version, *This Ain't Star Trek*, shows so much more respect to its story. Freaky, really. Anyway, uh, porn aside, thanks to you of both, as actors and creators.

And, of course, goodbye to Michael Jackson, who can no longer be tormented and sold by demons from within and without – though in your absence ■ seem we've created a new "rich eccentric" whipping boy, Tiger Woods. Just a coincidence that he happens to be black and famous, right? The race issue doesn't help boost vulture-media sales, no sah, not at all.

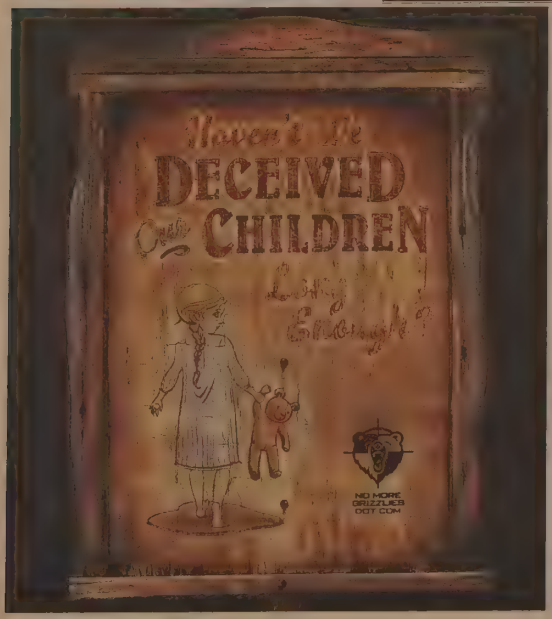
GOODBYE, FARRAH FAWCETT, SHE OF THE UBIQUITOUS POSTERS ON OUR OLDER BROTHERS' WALLS.

Taking a ride back home, goodbye, scary electric trolley buses on our Edmonton streets – stopping traffic and giving us those nightmares of being tangled up in your wires. You never had those? Lucky.

Goodbye, also, to any rational debate over the Oilers arena, as the stenographer over at *The Journal* repeatedly betrays objectivity ■ the masses and ignores scientific facts and studies with his multi-part, front-page job applications to do hockey PR once his paper soon enough goes fully wire copy. This incumbent job for him will, we can only hope, also be paid for by your tax dollars, to crutch up the most glaring piece of shit hockey team this town has ever been forced to stare at on nostalgia-mining bus shelter ads. Seriously, just one question today – if the arena's such a great fucking investment for you and me and Edmonton as *The Journal* steadfastly insists, why aren't the people called "investors" lined up around the block? Just ■ member who sold it to you all. OK, more on this throughout 2010, to be sure.

But let's drop the trivialities and say sadder farewells in the meantime. Goodbye, City Streets and Penny Buckner and Robin Hunter, artists who defined our city for so many years, but took the inevitable plunge into bigger pools. We're cheering for you, and dream of you often.

Goodbye, 2009. Goodbye, Year of the Sword. And here are the hardest ones, those never to return. Goodbye to Barstool Barry, with the friendly smile and willingness to listen. Goodbye to Vanessa Hughes, with the great ideas in that marvellous brain. Goodbye to Gilbert Bouchard, working so hard against ridiculous deadlines and the apathy of this hockey town for its gleaming arts. We miss you all dearly. And goodbye to Joe Bird, my lovely, lovely, dirty friend. Until we cross and all meet again.



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CD REVIEWS

BASIA BULAT

Heart Of My Own

(Secret City Records)

★★★★½

You can't help but get pulled in by the sound ■ Basia Bulat's voice. It's sweet, rich and full-bodied like a good port wine. Her second CD, *Heart of My Own*, is stellar to say the least. The lyrics are thoughtful and moving and they transport you to some place you definitely want ■ go. Somewhere with hills ■ gold, harbours of fire, souls made of mountains. A place with a lot of rain. With lyrics like, "They begged you for your awful words," you feel like you've stepped into the middle of an intimate conversation, as she never repeats what he said. And lines like, "Oh, how I've done myself in," resonate a great loss of love. Throw in a violin, a cello, a hammered harp and a handful of other instruments, and you're listening to something uniquely beautiful.

STACEY LAWRENCE

TEGAN AND SARA

Sainthood

(Vapitash)

★★★½

Sainthood, Tegan and Sara's sixth album, still contains the youthful exultation of their previous releases. Not ■ say there isn't a sense of maturity ■ it, but the content and context still seem relevant to the age of the sisters. To say I'm over analyzing the content of the album as a whole is valid, but T ■ ■ deserve the scrutiny. What they've given Canadians and continue to give in the form of true art is something that doesn't come along often enough. If there's something Canada is shitty at, it's proper scrutiny and constructive criticism. I'll just use Ben Mulroney and Nickelback as examples of what can go horribly wrong. "Hell" is a driven song that focuses around a love story told with real emotion. Metronomic riffs keep "Hell" paced until it hits it's chorus, which is textbook T & S. My favourite track title ■ "Red Belt." Aside from being an efficient tune, it's rhythmic beat keeps it honest and poignant. "Northshore" is a raucous romp through self-relevance, claiming, "There is something so sick about this, my misery is so addictive." The glory of the album ■ the "Someday," a quirky off-tempo lyrical fun farm of power and defiance. Nice job sisters of no mercy.

TRENT WILKIE

THE BIRD SANG SONG

Give This To My Children

(Independent)

★★½☆☆

Musical snobs and aficionados love the conversation that follows this question: "Are you a lyrics person or a song person?" It gives the greatest opportunity to talk about their own personal perspectives on why a song lacks or why a track becomes huge and it's a great way to find out who loves to talk about themselves. Being a young band, The Bird Sang Song depends on musings on love and love's loss to fill *Give This ■ My Children* in a way that can get a bit whiney and trite. On "Prairie Grudge Match", singer Mark Coughlan sings, "I'll do anything for you/I'll do some pushups and lift some weights . . ." You can imagine the rest. And while writing about love is certainly apt — and most people can certainly relate to words on love — it ■ exceedingly difficult to ■■ Leonard Cohen. However, The Bird Sang Song has ■ distinct advantage because of their warm rock melodies, structured song craft and unique melodies. Standout tracks "Overgrown" and "Good night Moon" create an affectionate ambience that may allow The Bird Sang Song to emerge.

CURTIS WRIGHT

JULLY BLACK

The Black Book

(Universal)

★★★½☆

I wish Jully Black were my life coach ■ guru or high school counsellor. *The Black Book*'s liner notes are full of little tidbits of wisdom she's picked up along the way, like, "The real battle we face isn't ■ our circumstances, it's in our minds." "The easiest person to be ■ me," and "Don't cheat, love your meat." It's a cross between Confucius and Oprah. The songs themselves are equally thoughtful, optimistic and empowering. The theme here is definitely re-engaging in the face of challenges or failures. Between "Running," "Recalculate" and "I'll Rock You," you better be ready to take over the world after listening to this, Black's third solo album. While the gospel and soul influences are obvious, this is not a straight R & B recording. There's a surprising, grungy and delicious rock n' roll presence roughing up most tracks. "The Plan", which starts out as a twinkling piano ballad, becomes anthemic under the sway of the electric guitar. Similarly, "Share My World" is a crunchy number that has the fire to stand behind Black's vivacious personality, powerful vocals and aspiring lyrics.

KATHLEEN BELL

YOU SAY PARTY! WE SAY DIE!

XXXX

(Page Bag Records)

★★★½☆

It's tough not to like X.X.X.X. It's catchy, polished and makes you shake your ass. It took a few runs, but then two things happened: 1) I stopped shaking my ass. And 2) I realized I liked the album. I know it sounds like I didn't want to like it, and in some weird way I didn't. Hip band on the rise, beautiful front woman that can sing like the dickens and an obscurely referential contemporary name. But, good music is good music like with "Laura Palmer's Prom." It's a boppy little ditty with the line, "My heart needs a love dance," repeated almost, and I'm not kidding, 4 million times. The track "Loyalty" has such an ominous air, I felt like I should ■■ watching pods hatch in some Reagan-era B horror movie. And if you are asking yourself, yes, that image is both erotic and weird. This BC quintet is labelled as dance punk, but it's more dance rock ... as if Metric and ABBA were rubbed together fast enough for them to gestate within each other. The song with the most replay value is "Heart of Gold." Becky Ninkovic's vocals resonate from some dreamlike aura with such wonderment, it would probably make unicorns cry from joy.

TRENT WILKIE

LISTEN · BY FISH GRIWKOWSKY

While it's said making year-end lists is a sure sign of a lazy reporter, all I can tell you is I've been working on this since January. Here are my favourites of 2009, locally, over at the Listen Bondage Dungeon:

1. The Get Down — Dirty Power EP
1. (tied) Jeff Stuart and the Hearts — Black Dogs Blue Giants
3. The Faints — Feel, Love, Thinking, Of.
4. Corb Lund — Losin' Lately Gambler
5. That's Edmonton for You! (free at thatsedmontonforyou.com)
6. The Famines — Free Love ■ a Sales Technique 45
7. The Secretaries — The Secretaries
8. Great Northern Roots Revival compilation
9. ManRayGun — Everything is Temporary
10. Bombchan — Do Me Right

Next up: let's "select-iverse" and take a gander at the rest of the stuff out there in the universe. In some kind of order, my most played global faves:

1. Sonic Youth — The Eternal
2. Pink Mountaintops — Outside Love
3. Grizzly Bear — Veckatimest
4. The Deep Dark Woods — Winter Hours
5. Haruko — Wild Geese
6. Wilco — Wilco
7. Slayer — World Painted Blood
8. Bill Callahan — Sometimes I Wish We Were an Eagle
9. Carolyn Mark & NQ Arbuckle — Let's Just Stay Here
10. Hidden Cameras — Origin:Orphan

Special mentions to Leonard Cohen's Live in London, the Factory Records box set and the Moon OST.

Here's a wee list of oh-nine songs ■ get the ladies shaking, much thanks ■ Bebop Cortez:

1. Shakira — She Wolf
2. Faggit Fairys — Feed the Horse
3. Major Lazer — Pon De Floor
4. Jay Z — Empire State of Mind
5. Dos Racist and Wallpaper — Pizza Hut & Taco Bell

The visual answer to music's audible enchantments is the video game. This year's video games pushed borders effortlessly, but none with such smooth, cunning beauty as Assassin's Creed II. Though the end was even lamer than the first installment's, the dynamic, real-map cities of 15th century Italy were so detailed and precise I used Google maps to find a church I'd lost track of. Not only does it instill a passion for collectible renaissance paintings, the vertigo and acrobatic fighting were flawlessly boneriffic. I loved rusty Fallout 3 and all, but AC2 slew it from above with supernal panache.

KENTUCKY CHURCH BUS AND FRIENDS
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THURSDAY

Live Music

THE BEAR'S NEW YEAR'S BASH *SHAW CONFERENCE CENTRE, 9797 JASPER AVE.* With Shinedown, Social Code, and Inward Eye. Tickets: www.ticketmaster.ca.
BEN STEVENSON *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (MAIN LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.* With Michael Rault. 7 p.m. Info: www.blackdog.ca.
CITY STREETS *LIKWID LOUNGE, 10081 JASPER AVE.* With Slates, and Falklands. 8 p.m.
DEAD OR ALIVE *THE VENUE (RIVER CREE RESORT AND CASINO), WHITEMUD DR. & WINTERBURN RD, ENOCH* Bon Jovi tribute. Info: 484-2121.
EAST COAST NEW YEAR'S EVE *SHERLOCK HOLMES PUB (DOWNTOWN), 10012-101A AVE.* With Derina Harvey.
HARLEQUIN *CENTURY CASINO, 13103 FORT RD.* Tickets: www.ticketmaster.ca.
JACK DANIEL'S BLACK AND WHITE PARTY *BILLIARD CLUB, 10505 WHYTE AVE.* With Wheat Pool. 7 p.m.
JAZZY NEW YEARS EVE *DELTA EDMONTON SOUTH (TOP OF THE INN), 4404 GATEWAY BLVD* 6:30 p.m.
JIMMY WHIFFEN *ATLANTIC TRAP AND GILL, 7704-104 ST.*
MEATDRAW *THE ARTERY, 9535 JASPER AVE.* With The Secretaries, Mountain House, and the Pale Moon Lights. 8 p.m.
NEW YEAR'S EVE *MCDOUGALL UNITED CHURCH, 10025-101 ST.* Music by the Blx Mlx Boys, Lyra Brown, Low Flying Planes, Back Porch Swing, Laurel Mavlure, Marshall Lawrence, Brian Gregg, The Proper Charlies, Erin Kushniruk, Jesse Dee and Jacquie B, Scott Cook and the Long Weekends, and Willie James and Crawdad Cantera. 7:30 p.m. Info: 428-1818.
THE NEW YEARS PARTY 2009 *STARLITE ROOM, 10030-102 ST.* With Raygun Cowboys, Old Wives, Sally's Krackers, The Blame It's., Down The Hatch, The Rumble Strippers and Fire Next Time. With Dj's Cobra Commander, Bateery, Ten-O, Cool Beans, P-Rex, Hotspur Pop, Spenny B, and Dub Affiliates. Info: www.starliteroom.ca.
THE NICKY TAMS *O'BYRNE'S IRISH PUB, 10616 WHYTE AVE.* With DJ. '40s style New Year's Eve celebration. 7 p.m. Tickets: 414-6766.
ROCK IN 2010 *ON THE ROCKS, 11740 JASPER AVE.* With Superband. 9 p.m.
SAMIRA *YELLOWHEAD CASINO, 12464-153 ST.* Tina Turner tribute. Info: 424-9467.
A SECOND HAND NEW YEAR'S *HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB, 15120A STONY PLAIN RD.* Fleetwood Mac tribute band. 8 p.m. Tickets: www.ticketmaster.ca.
THE SOULICITORS *PAWN SHOP, 2ND FL.10551-82 AVE.* With Needles to Vinyl, and My Sister Ocean. 8 p.m.

DJs/Club Nights

THE BIG BANG NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY *EDMONTON EVENT CENTRE, 8882-170 ST.* 9 p.m. Tickets: www.ticketmaster.ca.
DJ DERVISH *NEW CITY, 10081 JASPER AVE.* With Blue Jay, Anonymouse, and guests. 8 p.m.
DJ FOOTNOTES *STOLLI'S, #201 10368 WHYTE AVE.* With ConScience.
DJ GUNDAM *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (TOP LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.* 7 p.m.
DJ NAK *CHROME LOUNGE, 104-550 CLAREVIEW RD.* With Bikini Girls. Info: chromelounge.ca/414-1111.
DISCO GALA *VINYL DANCE LOUNGE, 10765 JASPER AVE.* New Year's Eve Celebration. Info: www.vinylretrolounge.com.
E-ROCK-TICA NEW YEAR'S EVE 2010 *UNION HALL, 6240-99 ST.* 8 p.m. Tickets: www.ticketmaster.ca.
GLAM *PLAY NIGHT CLUB, 10220-103 ST.* With DJ Showboy, DJ Toonflash, and Mark Sheppard. 8 p.m. Info: 497-7529N
NEW YEAR'S EVE AT HALO *10538 JASPER AVE.* With Junior Brown and Girls Club. 9 p.m.
NEW YEARS EVE 2010: A TRIBUTE TO OLD HOLLYWOOD *THE BANK ULTRA LOUNGE, 10765 JASPER AVE.* With DJ Russell James, DJ FFWD, DJ Hershey, Mikey Wong, Benny Hawk, and Ryan Wade. 7 p.m.
ROYAL NEW YEAR'S EVE MASQUERADE *THE PINT, 10125-109 ST.* Info: www.thepint.ca.
TIGHT JAMS THURSDAYS *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (MAIN LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.* With Mike B. and Brosnake.

SEEN IT LIVE · GREAT GIGS YOU MISSED LAST WEEK

Baked in the Snow | Flanked by John Woroshuk, Tim Balash and Johnny Bierot, Ms. Jody Shenkarek brings warm country goodness to the Empress on Boxing Day as everyone expresses relief for their returning social lives. PHOTO BY FISH GRIWKOWSKY

FRIDAY

Live Music

DAVID GUETTA *EDMONTON EVENT CENTRE, 8882-170 ST.* Tickets: www.ticketmaster.ca.
IRISH CLUB JAM SESSION *IRISH SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB, 12546-126 ST.* 8 p.m.
NEW YEAR'S EVE DO-OVER *ON THE ROCKS, 11740 JASPER AVE.* With West of Winnipeg.
SALUTE TO VIENNA *WINSPEAR CENTRE, 9720-102 AVE.* With Gerhard Track, soprano Mónika Fischl, tenor Alexandru Badea, and members of the Ballet St. Pölten. Tickets: www.winspearcentre.com/428-1414.

DJs/Club Nights

4 PLAY FRIDAYS *ENCORE CLUB, #116, 957-FIR ST.* With DJ Imho Austin.
BEER FEST FRIDAYS *LUCKY 13, 10551-82 AVE.*
DJ ALEXX BROWN AND EDDIE TOONFLASH *PLAY NIGHT CLUB, 10220-103 ST.*
DJ ARROW CHASER *BUDDY'S PUB, 11725B JASPER AVE.* 8 p.m.
DJ PAPI AND DJ LATIN SENSATION *AZUCAR PICANTE, 13062-50 ST.*
DJ SERVICE *PROHIBITION, 11026 JASPER AVE.* With DJ Shortee.
DJ SEXXXY *BOOTS BAR, 10242-106 ST.*
DJ SHAWNIBIS *ON THE ROCKS, 11740 JASPER AVE.*
DESTROY ROCK & ROLL *HALO, 10538 JASPER AVE.*
FREE AND FRESH FRIDAYS *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (TOP LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.* With Marc II Fresh & Free the DJ.
FRIDAY NIGHT FRENZY *DIRTY PRETTY, 8111-105 ST.* With DJ Ty Collins.
PEOPLE'S DJ *STOLLI'S, #201, 10368 WHYTE AVE.*
PLATINUM VIP FRIDAYS *CHROME LOUNGE, 104-550 CLAREVIEW RD.*
UGLY SWEATER YEAR ENDER BENDER *ATTIC BAR & LOUNGE, 10407 WHYTE AVE.*

SATURDAY

GROUNDED STAR *BRIXX BAR & GRILL, 10030-102 ST.* With Duelside and Green Diesel. 9 p.m.
HAIR OF THE DOG *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (MAIN LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.* Live acoustic. 4 p.m.
IN THE MIDST OF MURDER *PAWN SHOP, 2ND FL. 10551-82 AVE.* With Lost Horizon, Bohdi, and As Bold as Lions.
SONNY RHODES *BLUES ON WHYTE, 10329 WHYTE AVE.*

DJs/Club Nights

BLACK POLISHED CHROME *NEW CITY, 10081 JASPER AVE.* With DJ Dervish, Anonymouse, and Blue Jay.
DJ CHRISTIAN *GAS PUMP NIGHTCLUB & BAR, 10166-114 ST.* With DJ Travis.
DJ EARTH SHIVER 'N' QUAKE *BUDDY'S PUB, 11725B JASPER AVE.* 8 p.m.
DJ SEXXXY *BOOTS BAR, 10242-106 ST.*
DJ SHERI *NEWCASTLE PUB AND GRILL, 6108-90 AVE.*
DJ SOUNDWAVE *BACKROOM VODKA BAR, 10324A-82 AVE.*
DANCE HALL REGGAE NIGHT *180 DEGREES, 10730-107 AVE.* With Generation LIVEXX. Doors at 10 p.m. Info: 414-0233.
DAVID USSHER AND SANDY O'BRIEN *PROHIBITION, 11026 JASPER AVE.*
FOR THOSE WHO KNOW *HALO, 10538 JASPER AVE.* With DJ Junior Brown, Luke Morrison, Nestor Delano,and Ari Rhodes.
GONE GOLD *FLUID LOUNGE, 10105-109 ST.* With Harmen B and DJ Kwake.
HANGOVER 2010 *THE COMMON, 10124-124 ST.* 9 p.m.
LADY LUCK SATURDAYS *LUCKY 13, 10551-82 AVE.*
THE MENACE SESSIONS *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (MAIN LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.*
OH SNAP! *TEMPLE, 10030-102 ST.* With Degree, Cobra Commander, Battery, and guests. 9 p.m.
PSOUND IT UP! *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (TOP LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.* With DJ Sonny Grimezz.
SSURVIVAL METAL NIGHT *RENDEZVOUS PUB, 10108-149 ST.*

SUNDAY

Live Music

CELTIC MUSIC SESSION *DEVANEY'S IRISH PUB, 9013-88 AVE.* Hosted by Keri-Lynn Zwicker. Doors at 4 p.m.
COLOR IN CONFLICT *BRIXX BAR & GRILL, 10030-102 ST.* With Sunset Trip, and Feast or Famine. 9 p.m.
COOL BLUE METHOD *BLUES ON WHYTE, 10329 WHYTE AVE.*
JAZZ ON THE SIDE SUNDAYS *BLUE PEAR, 10643-123 ST.*

DJs/Club Nights

GET DOWN SUNDAYS *NEW CITY, 10081 JASPER AVE.* With Neighbourhood Rats.
LADIES INDUSTRY SUNDAYS *GINGUR SKY LOUNGE, 5505-118 AVE.*
METAL MATINEE *CROWN PUB, 10709-109 ST.* 6 p.m.
SOUL SUNDAYS *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (MAIN LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.* With DJ Zyppy.
WUNDERBAR SUNDAYS *WUNDERBAR HOFBRAU HAUS, 8120-101 ST.* With DJ Gallatea and XS.

MONDAY

Live Music

MAURICE JOHN VAUGHN *BLUES ON WHYTE, 10329 WHYTE AVE.*
THIS WILL HURT YOU MONDAYS *NEW CITY, 10081 JASPER AVE.* With Johnny Neck and his Job.

DJs/Club Nights

BLUE JAY'S MESSY NEST *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (MAIN LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.* With DJ Blue Jay.
DJ DUST 'N TIME *BUDDY'S PUB, 11725B JASPER AVE.* 9 p.m.
INDUSTRIAL MONDAYS *LUCKY 13, 10551-82 AVE.* With DJ Chad Cook.
METAL MONDAYS *FILTHY MCNASTY'S, 10511A WHYTE AVE.*

TUESDAY

Live Music

CELTIC JAM *O'BYRNE'S IRISH PUB, 10616 WHYTE AVE.* With Shannon Johnson and friends.
LIVE ACOUSTIC *THE HAT, 10251 JASPER AVE.* Doors at 9 p.m.
OVERTIME SOUTH *#160-4211-106 ST.* 9 p.m.
TROUBADOUR TUESDAYS *BRIXX BAR & GRILL, 10030-102 ST.* 9 p.m.
STEEPS OLD GLENORA *12411 STONY PLAIN RD.* Doors [illegible] 7:30 p.m.

DJs/Club Nights

BASHMENT TUESDAYS *GINGUR SKY LOUNGE, 5505-118 AVE.* 9 p.m.
DJ XAOLIN & JAE MAZE *CROWN PUB, 10709-109 ST.* [illegible] p.m.
EDDIE LUNCHPAIL *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (MAIN LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.*
JORDAN WATSON *RED STAR, 10538 JASPER AVE.* 5 p.m.
TURBO TUESDAYS *FILTHY MCNASTY'S, 10511A WHYTE AVE.*

WEDNESDAY

Live Music

JAZZ & SHIRAZ WEDNESDAYS *RED PIANO CAJUN BISTRO & DUELING PIANO BAR (WEM)* Hosted by Dave Babcock and his Jump Trio.
JOHN MAHON AND MARTHE WILDSMITH *MCDOUGALL UNITED CHURCH, 10025-101 ST.* 12:10 p.m.
KURT WEST EXPRESS *BRIXX BAR & GRILL, 10030-102 ST.* 9 p.m.
RHONDA WITHNELL *COPPER POT, #101, 9707-110 ST.* 6 p.m. Info: 452-7800

DJs/Club Nights

BANK ON WEDNESDAYS *THE BANK ULTRA LOUNGE, 10765 JASPER AVE.* With DJ Mike Tomas, and DJ FFWD.
BEAT PARTY WEDNESDAYS *STOLLI'S, #201, 10368 WHYTE AVE.*
DJ DUST 'N TIME *BUDDY'S PUB, 11725B JASPER AVE.* 9 p.m.
DJ ROXXI SLADE *LIKWID LOUNGE, 10081 JASPER AVE.*
DAPHUTUR *ATTIC BAR & LOUNGE, 10407 WHYTE AVE.*
GUEST DJ *RED STAR, 10538 JASPER AVE.*
PINT NIGHT *FILTHY MCNASTY'S, 10511A WHYTE AVE.*
RETROACTIVE RADIO *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (MAIN LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.*
SOUL/BREAKS *BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE (TOP LEVEL), 10425 WHYTE AVE.* With Dr. Erick.

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> I ALWAYS HATED STAR TREK, WHICH IS WHY I WAS THE PERFECT AUDIENCE FOR J.J. ABRAMS' REBOOT ... AND WHY IT'S ONE OF THE **BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR.**

FILM · BEST OF · BY JOHN KMECH | 1250 words

Our Picks Of This Year's Flicks

Terror In South Africa | Neil Blomkamp's alien movie is one of the best of the year. PHOTO SUPPLIED

And The Scariest Villain Is... | Pan's Labyrinth's grotesquely beautiful images stand the test of time. PHOTO SUPPLIED

YEAH, WE LIKED STAR TREK, DEAL WITH IT. AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, CHECK OUT SOME OF OUR FAVES FROM THE REST OF THE DECADE

The Hurt Locker A stunningly intense Iraq War film that manages to avoid dealing with the politics of the war while maintaining all the strife, *The Hurt Locker* feels like the closest someone could get to the conflict without actually being on the ground in Fallujah.

Kathryn Bigelow's direction refreshingly avoids taking a side in the war, concentrating instead on Jeremy Renner's expert performance as an army daredevil whose unquenchable lust for bomb defusing makes him a massive asset as well as a dangerously loose cannon.

In a year where the U.S. economy took precedent over U.S. wars in the public mindset, Bigelow's film reminded us of the sacrifices soldiers were still making, by showing how crazy you'd have to be to actually want to be in that chaos.

District 9 The movie expertly combined two of my most fervent interests: relevant political metaphors for the oppression of black populations by whites during apartheid-era South Africa, and lightning guns that blow up aliens into viscerally meaty chunks. Rarely have both elements been so well juxtaposed.

Director Neil Blomkamp's labour of love presented the tension of early-'90s race relations in his home country in a brilliantly original science-fiction context. The film combined mind-blowing visuals with a tale of a man who, having previously worked in league with humans, who were violently brutalizing an alien race, realizes the error of his ways after becoming one of the aliens and starts fighting against his former species.

Then, several months later, James Cameron's *Avatar* was hailed for its amazing originality.

Star Trek I always hated Star Trek – which is why I was the perfect audience for producer J.J. Abrams' reboot of the series and why it's one of the best films of the year. Expertly cast and perfectly paced, *Star Trek* convinced me that the *Star Trek* franchise could be cool, which is pretty much the most you can ask of any remake.

As well, always a fan of alternate universes, Abrams' ingenious change to the *Star Trek* timeline ensured that he could conjure up any *Star Trek* story he wanted in the future without having to put up with fans griping about unfaithfulness to the original canon.

It was a sneaky, underhanded move that should pay off lucratively for him in countless inevitable sequels that I'm actually looking forward to watching.

Fantastic Mr. Fox Stop-motion animation gets very little love these days – probably because it's really hard, time-consuming, and costly compared to churning out repetitive 3D animated tripe featuring cutesy talking animals. It was therefore refreshing to see cutesy talking animals not generated by a computer being far more endearing.

Unsurprisingly, Wes Anderson's adaptation of Roald Dahl's classic short story features many of the Anderson quirks and humour that fans soak up and non-fans don't quite understand, but the animators kept their eye on such minor details for Mr. Fox, his friends, and their world that repeat watchings are almost demanded to see everything and the film is almost destined to become an animation classic, regardless of whether you connect with Anderson's style.

Coraline. Though Pixar's *Up* got much of the attention this year – rather deservedly – as the 3D animation ring, one film that seems to have been overshadowed and overlooked due to this is Henry Selick's fantastical *Coraline*.

But *Coraline* stands on its own as a magically told story about the eponymous young girl and her desire to escape from the banalities of life, only to realize that the flawless life she imagined could be far more terrifying, imploring us to appreciate the imperfections in our own lives. And there's nothing creepier than those scary, black button eyes.

This movie is probably the closest someone can get to *Alice in Wonderland* on the silver screen until, well, Tim Burton's upcoming *Alice in Wonderland*.

MORE GREATNESS FROM THE REST OF THE DECADE ...

Children of Men (2006) The most striking dystopian fiction has an urgent sense of reality to it, a feeling that the horrific world being portrayed could be right around the corner. *Children of Men*'s world without babies may not be all that imminent, but Alfonso Cuaron infuses his film with a gritty realism that certainly makes it feel imminent.

It's hard to think of a more depressing future than one with no children, and *Children of Men*'s despair elucidates just how joyous and necessary children are – no matter how much damage adults can do to the world, babies will forever symbolize hope for a better future. Without them, there's not only no future, but there's no point for the present – why go through the motions of the day if everyone knows the human race is headed inevitably towards oblivion?

Pan's Labyrinth (2007) A magical visual marriage of the spellbindingly gorgeous and the wretchedly brutal, Guillermo del Toro crafted a whimsical adult fairy tale with this incredibly personal film that simultaneously spoke to anyone who dreamed of escaping the real world – which was a popular global sentiment in the midst of the Bush years and the war in Iraq. While the costumes and sets were vividly lush, *Pan's Labyrinth* stands out as having one of the most shocking scenes of the decade (the ol' wine-bottle-to-the-farmer's-face moment). Also, how can we forget two of the greatest villains of the decade, Captain Vidal and the Pale Man, who were both evil in different, but equally vicious ways.

MOVIES (cont'd on p. 17)

Immature humour at its finest | A soul-sucking mummy challenges Bruce Campbell's geriatric Elvis in a retirement home, making for some of the best DVD viewing of the decade. PHOTO SUPPLIED

DVD DICTATOR · THESE ARE THE MOVIES YOU MUST BUY THIS TUESDAY

Bubba Ho-Tep (2002)

CAST | Bruce Campbell, Ossie Davis

Considering the implied hilarity of Bruce Campbell playing an elderly Elvis and Ossie "Fucking Awesome" Davis as a pigment-skewed JFK, there's lots of depth to *BHT*. Yes, a mummy wandering a retirement home sucking souls through people's arseholes is somewhat immature, but so what fart faces! Quote: Presley "I was dreamin'. Dreamin' my dick was out and I was checkin' to see if that infected bump on the head was filled with pus again. If it had, I was gonna name it after my ex-wife Priscilla and bust it by jackin' off. Or I'd like to think that's what I'd do. Truth was, I hadn't had a hard-on in years."

Donnie Darko (2001)

CAST | Jake Gyllenhaal, Mary McDonnell

I was going to write about *Bronson*. But why would I talk about a real pseudo-paranoid violent offender who sees himself as a star when I could talk about a fictitious time travelling paranoid schizophrenic who sees monstrous bunnies? In the end, the Smurf Rant put Darko on top. Now, I like watching piled up naked dudes fight prison guards as much as the next guy, but Patrick Swayze as a pedophile made me think "ironic contemporary art." Also: "Sparkle Motion" holds a special place in my verbal arsenal. And finally – Dr. Lillian Thurman: "The search for God is absurd?" Donnie: "It is if everyone dies alone."

Primer (2004) / The Man From Earth (2007)

CAST | Shane Carruth, David Sullivan/David Lee Smith, John Billingsley

A tie for the same reason: brilliant scripts. Both are a return to the strong storytelling of early science fiction. The fact there weren't any budget restraints (because there wasn't a budget) didn't stop either from making a mark on conceptual storytelling. If you can get by the schmaltzy acting of the first 10 minutes of *The Man From Earth*, and the high end algorithmic calculus of *Primer*, then both will be worth the effort it took to find them. But I apologize: there isn't any nudity and very little swearing in either.

FILM • SHERLOCK HOLMES • BY LILY TSUI | 506 words

No Shit, Sherlock!

Heterosexual Lifemates | Downey Jr. and Law connect in Sherlock Holmes. PHOTO SUPPLIED

WATSON AND HOLMES MAY BE LIVING A VICTORIAN ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLE, BUT THE MOVIE'S GREAT

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Directed by Guy Ritchie, starring Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, Mark Strong, & Rachel McAdams

★★★★☆

I must begin with a confession: everything I know about Sherlock Holmes comes from *Star Trek: the Next Generation*. I've never read the books or seen any of the previous screen adaptations. Nevertheless, I was looking forward to this movie, because I adore Robert Downey Jr. I scoffed at the "concerns" others voiced based on the preview: "Holmes isn't a superhero!" and "Holmes and Watson weren't gay!" I simply didn't care. For me, it didn't matter whether it lived up to the Holmes canon. It just looked like a damn cool movie, starring one of my favorite actors.

The film did not disappoint. Had Data gotten his wish to "become human," he may well have turned out like Downey's portrayal of Holmes. They share the same ability to observe and catalogue the details (relevant and otherwise) in the world around them, yet both fail at understand and thrive among people who experience normal human emotion and want for attachment.

The relationship between Holmes and Jude Law's Watson is a connection worthy of comparison to Jay and Silent Bob, and also Gimli and Legolas. It is a bromance for the ages. There was nothing "gay" about it (as if it would carry a PG rating if there was any homoerotic content), although I personally would not have minded (scratch that, I'd have greatly enjoyed) seeing Downey and Law make out. The chemistry between the two men felt natural and well-balanced between machismo fronts of non-concern and genuine care and affection.

Lord Blackwood, the villain played by Mark Strong, bears a striking resemblance to Stanley Tucci, and performed just as well as one would expect from the latter. However, the script was clearly focused on Holmes and Watson, thus leaving the remaining cast with shallower material to work with.

Rachel McAdams was forgettable as Irene Adler and never quite seemed to fit into the London of Holmes' time. A better turn by Kelly Reilly as Mary Morstan is worth noting as Watson's fiance who is surprisingly accepting of her beau's eccentric (and rather obnoxious, especially to her) heterosexual lifemate.

The film is clearly marked with Guy Ritchie's signature style. The overall feel was similar to *Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels* and *Snatch*, and worked unexpectedly well in a much older London.

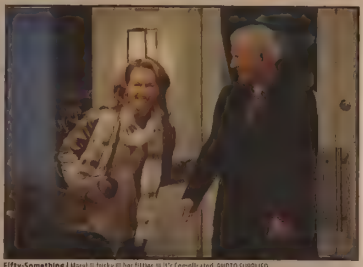
The quick editing used in the aforementioned movies was adapted with a twist and used sparingly to great effectiveness, and manages to tell us something about Holmes' inner workings every time the technique was used (I won't spoil it for you here, but I think it'll be obvious what I'm referring to when you see the movie).

All in all, this new *Sherlock Holmes* is deserving of the hype, and I look forward to the sequel that will build on this well-executed introduction to a modern Holmes and Watson.

HAD DATA GOTTEN HIS WISH TO "BECOME HUMAN" HE MAY WELL HAVE TURNED OUT LIKE DOWNEY'S PORTRAYAL OF HOLMES.

FILM • IT'S COMPLICATED • BY ELLIOT KERR | 459 words

Full Frontal At 50



Fifty-Something | Meryl is frisky in her fifties in It's Complicated. PHOTO SUPPLIED

DESPITE THE INHERENT ICK FACTOR, IT'S COMPLICATED IS A CHARMING AND BITTERSWEET WINNER

IT'S COMPLICATED

Written and directed by Nancy Meyers, starring Meryl Streep, Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin

★★★★☆

The world has become somewhat more crass since a certain over-screened Christmas film claimed that every time a bell rings an angel gets his wings. Now, every time a serious actor signs over their career to appear in a holiday comedy from Nancy Meyers, a zippy symphony of swiping debit cards sings.

Which of course is the next best thing to being a real angel in Hollywood anyway. The difficulty with *It's Complicated* is that Meryl Streep & co. make the descent into hell so annoyingly fun. I will admit it, although I am not, to my knowledge, part of the target demographic. I laughed.

For more than a decade Meyers has written, directed and produced a triennial Christmas holiday romance-comedy smash that bridges 50-plus women's fantasy and wider appeal, most recently *The Holiday* and *Something's Got to Give* (where Jack Nicholson first showed the way to those who would parlay critical dramatic acclaim into a profit-sharing berth on the frothy seas of boomer-oriented comedy).

In this iteration, Streep plays Jane, a successful West-Coast restaurant owner who is still coming to terms with her 10-year-old divorce from Jake (Alec Baldwin), and his subsequent remarriage to a much younger woman. The complications of the title arise when Jane and Jake begin an affair while attending their son's college graduation in New York City. But Jane is also involved with the architect designing her dream kitchen (Steve Martin). Personal crises and hilarity ensue, while son-in-law Harley (John Krasinski) becomes an unwilling witness and wry observer.

Alec Baldwin is in fine, slimy comic form as the womanizing narcissist, and Streep keeps pace with big gestures toward broad comedy. When after their first drunken sexual reencounter Baldwin's character contentedly declares, "That was a crazy ride – I like that you've stopped getting bikini waxes, you've gone natural!" Streep's character responds with the closest thing I have ever seen to deadpan vomiting. The non-stop mugging also has the bizarre effect of making Steve Martin's performance seem positively subdued.

Yet, for all the delightful bad behaviour played out by the old folks (yes, you do get to see a full frontal Baldwin ridiculously posed), and the undeniably cozy feelings the film is intended to leave you snuggling as you stumble out into the snow, I couldn't help but wonder what sort of auteur film Nancy Meyer's extraordinary gifts as a writer and filmmaker could produce in time for Christmas 2012, if only she would take a break from comedies about wealthy white women. Is it too much to hope for?

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FILM · UP IN THE AIR · BY MAURICE TOUGAS (680 words)

Like A Well-Piloted Plane

UP IN THE AIR OFFERS A SMOOTH RIDE AND AN EXPERT LANDING. LET'S HOPE THEY DON'T FIRE THE PILOT

UP IN THE AIR
Directed by Jason Reitman, starring George Clooney, Vera Farmiga, Anna Kendrick
★★★★★

The Friendly Skies? | George Clooney in Up in the Air | PHOTO SUPPLIED

Ryan Bingham had me for a while.

When Bingham gives a corporate presentation about living life out of a backpack, bereft of such dead weight as commitment and family, I almost bought it.

One of the great joys of *Up In The Air*, the utterly captivating new film from *Juno* and *Thank You for Smoking* director Jason Reitman, is that there is so much to chew on, the film lingers with you for days, so much so that I still think Bingham had a pretty good point.

George Clooney plays Bingham, a travelling corporate hatchet man, whose job is to do the dirty work of firing people that soulless companies don't have the guts to do on their own. Bingham has it down to a science: be sympathetic and optimistic. He has standard lines, like some gibberish about "every person who started an empire was in the same position you are now," that ease the poor soul gently into the murky waters of unemployment. Bingham has a way of making the end of 20 years employment sound like a golden opportunity for a new life.

He's very, very good at his job, and he loves it. He's in the air more than 300 days a year, travelling first class, bedding down in generic hotel rooms for a day or two before heading off to do some further life destroying in St. Louis or Wichita or wherever. His "home" is in Omaha, a nearly unfurnished apartment where he spends as little time as possible. He's unmarried (never has been and has never come close), childless, and utterly content. Clooney is so good in this role that you can completely believe that Ryan Bingham is the happiest man in the world.

In a hotel bar he meets his distaff side, another serial frequent flyer named Alex (a tough but sexy Vera Farmiga). They strike up a conversation over the merits of different car rental companies, and in one of the film's funniest sequences, they slap down their various customer loyalty cards like a couple of high stakes poker players. They strike up an initially no commitments affair, plotting their next liaison via their calendars.

Bingham's ideal life is thrown for a curve when his company brings in a brittle young tech wiz Natalie (Anna Kendrick, also excellent) who comes up with the ultimate money-saving idea – do the firing via webcams. No more travel for the staff of hatchet men. Bingham, naturally, is outraged. His entire way of life is now at risk, and besides, he's a professional you can't fire people via the Internet. Company boss Craig (Jason Bateman) decides to send Bingham and Natalie on the road so she can get a feel for firing.

Up in the Air could have gone off in a hundred different directions, all of them bad. Reitman, who also co-wrote, resists the urge to take the tried and true route, and never wavers from his vision. What happens in *Up in the Air* is real, painful in times, very funny in others. It is a rumination on the value of work, connections, and family.

How one interprets *Up in the Air* depends on your station in life. If you're a 20-something up and comer in the business world, you'll see it one way. If you're a 50-something mid-level rat race type, you'll see it in another.

In short, it's a gem: wise, witty, with never a false move. Following on the heels of *Juno* and *Thank You For Smoking*, Montreal-born Reitman is clearly a director whose name alone will be a sign of a certain kind of smart adult film. The acting is Oscar-calibre, with Clooney giving the performance of his career.

But even with such stellar acting, the most riveting scenes come from amateurs. Reitman recruited people who had recently been fired to recount their experiences. You can feel their pain.

MOVIES (cont'd from p.15)

The Lord of the Rings' Return of the King (2003). As is typical for *Return of the King*, this entry represents the entire *Lord of the Rings* series. Adapting J.R.R. Tolkien's trilogy, arguably the most popular and beloved fantasy series in history, could very easily have been one of the largest blunders in cinematic history under a less competent director, yet Peter Jackson had such a monumental vision in all aspects of the productions that he captured the scope and grandiosity of Tolkien's fantasy in a way that almost no one thought was possible. There aren't many words of praise about the films haven't been said already, but Jackson's trilogy will forever be the definitive *Lord of the Rings* films and it is hard to imagine them ever being upstaged by any directors in future "reboots."

Memento (2001). Though many films may make small alterations to the pattern, most Hollywood fare still follows a relatively linear story structure, which is what makes *Memento* so intriguing and memorable even a decade later. Told in reverse chronological order, the tale of Guy Pierce's amnesiac insurance fraud investigator trying to find his wife's murderer by leaving himself clues to remind himself as his memory continually fades still remains one of the most inventive of the decade, even nine years later and with the possibility of Gaspar Noe's *Irreversible*, there are no other films like it. *Memento* also proved Christopher Nolan's directorial chops, and had he not proven himself at that crucial junction, we may have ended the decade still associating *Batman* with George Clooney and Chris O'Donnell.

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (2007). A heartwrenching yet beautiful portrayal of what it feels like to be a spectator in life rather than a participant, *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* puts you in the mind of Jean-Dominque Bauby, a man who becomes a fully aware prisoner of his own body after suffering a debilitating stroke. Based on the memoir written by the actual Bauby, who was editor-in-chief of Elle magazine, visual artist and director Julian Schnabel shot the film almost completely in first person perspective, showing the world as Bauby saw it, out of his one eye, the only part of his body he could still move. Saying carpe diem has almost become derivative, but few films make you count your blessings like this one.

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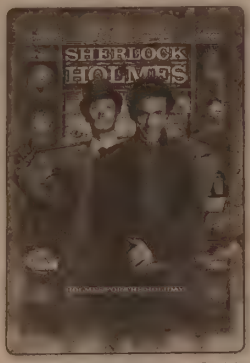

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FILM • FREE MOVIES | 690 words

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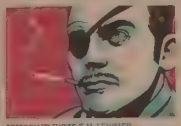


FREEDOM IN CHOICE G.M. LEWMER

DON'T BE BORED ON THOSE COLD EDMONTON NIGHTS — THESE FREE INTERNET GEMS MAY JUST SAVE YOUR LIFE

Due to a multitude of factors (work, reality, lack of interest) my film-going was severely diminished in 2009 as opposed to previous years. With that in mind, this list is in many ways compromised as I've missed films I should have seen, stopped taking chances on films I've might have seen, and given up on the films that I ought to see. That being said, the 10 films on this list are exceptional works that I wouldn't hesitate to recommend to anyone. With each new year, the majority of pundits bemoan gloom and doom and the death of cinema with exceeding regularity. I sense exactly the opposite, with the advancement of technology we've entered a golden age of opportunity for filmmakers to create and distribute their films electronically for little or no money to a worldwide audience. The challenge (as always) is if they have anything to say – something you won't have to worry about with the following.

Secret Sunshine. Dir. Lee-Chang Dong. Brilliant Korean film that played briefly at the Metro. The saga of a woman overcoming enormous emotional and physical trauma to embrace the beauty of life ... in her own inimitable way. A film that stops on a dime, consistently changes direction, and is magical, unpredictable and true in ways that are completely at odds with the conventions of mainstream cinema.

Limits of Control. Dir. Jim Jarmusch. Widely misunderstood, Jarmusch's fever-dream noir reinterpretation of John Boorman's *Point Blank* with Isaach De Bankole playing the Lee Marvin character and fighting the good fight for art against commerce. A film that will grow in stature for years to come.

Waltz With Bashir. Dir. Ari Folman. Justifiably recognized worldwide, Folman's memory nightmare of his time as an Israeli infantry soldier during the Lebanese war speaks a harsh truth about the destruction combat has on all peoples. By inviting animation, Folman captures the hallucinatory intensity of the futility of destruction.

O'Horten. Dir. Bent Hamer. The sweetest and loveliest film I saw all year. The saga of how time passes us all only to return if we allow it to. By equal means funny and sad, filled with the poetry of life and hope that invites the viewer to share in the sacred secret of humanity.

Three Monkeys. Dir. Nuri Bilge Ceylan. A harsh and uncompromising examination of personal and collective corruption within Turkish society. Mesmerizing direction and superlative acting combine to maximize the artistic integrity of an extraordinarily difficult cultural and subject matter. Another film that will grow in stature in time.

Tulpan. Dir. Sergey Dvortsevoy. A Kazakhstan screwball comedy that adroitly combines neorealism with Jerry Lewisism. Life-affirming in all the best of ways, a simple story of a man trying to win the woman within his heart is blessed with a honesty and generosity that most films can only dream of.

Ponyo. Dir. Hayao Miyazaki. Another animated masterpiece by philosopher extraordinaire Miyazaki. A film that contains no villain (when was the last time you saw that?), that thrills and inspires everyone to become the best that they can possibly become. Magnificent consciousness combines with extraordinary artistry.

Gomorrah. Dir. Matteo Garrone. A frightening unsentimental journey into organized crime in Italy and how it pervades on all levels of society. Riveting from beginning to end.

THE 10 FILMS ON THIS LIST ARE EXCEPTIONAL WORKS THAT I WOULDN'T HESITATE TO RECOMMEND TO ANYONE.

Che, Pt. 1. Dir. Steven Soderburgh. An epic achievement that plays more like the *Wild Bunch* (sans violence) than a traditional biopic. Simultaneously intimate and expansive, the film feels like a true epic without the cliches and false heroics. Career defining performance by Benicio Del Toro as the title character.

You The Living. Dir. Roy Andersson. Andersson is a living treasure and one of the greatest artists working in film today. An episodic illumination of the mystery of life, all filmed within a studio, recalls late Bunuel at his best. Filled with the wonders of cinema that only true genius can offer.

MOVIE GUIDE · WHAT'S PLAYING IN THE THEATRES

NOW PLAYING

THE YOUNG VICTORIA
Young Princess Victoria is caught in a royal power struggle. Her first years of rule are turbulent, but it ■ her blossoming love affair with Prince Albert that will determine the strength of her reign. A passionate and romantic look at one of history's greatest loves stories.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL
The world famous singing chipmunk trio, Alvin and his pals returns to contend with school, celebrity and a rival girl group, The Chipettes.

NINE
Self-centred movie director Guido Contini turns to the four female corners in his world for inspiration: his wife, his mistress, his muse and his mother. But a mid-life crisis strains this delicate balance between his creative profession and demanding personal life.

ALSO PLAYING

THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS
With the extraordinary gift of guiding imaginations, Doctor Parnassus is also cursed, having traded his daughter ■ the devil in exchange for immortality. In this captivating, explosive and wonderfully imaginative race against time ■ Parnassus must undo the mistakes of his past in a never-ending landscape of surreal obstacles!
★★★★☆

UP IN THE AIR
A drama-comedy-romance about a corporate downsizing expert who flies from city ■ city laying people off. Things get interesting when he meets the woman ■ his dreams as he's about to lose his own job, while on the verge of getting his 10-millionth frequent-flyer mile.
★★★★★

SHERLOCK HOLMES
The legendary sleuth and his assistant are on the hunt after a serial killer and occult "sorcerer" returns from his grave and revives his killing spree. Temptresses, deceit and black magic must be overcome ■ save England and the maiden.
★★★★☆

IT'S COMPLICATED
During her son's graduation, an older woman hooks up with her ex-husband who has remarried a much younger woman. Being her ex's mistress is one thing, but things get more complicated after she falls for a successful architect.
★★★★☆

AVATAR
James Cameron might actually ■ more excited by the release of his movie than the rest of us put together. A 15-year-old concept, this film starring Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana and Sigourney Weaver percolated in his mind until the technology to make it happen finally caught up.
★★★★☆

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?
Hugh Grant and Sarah Jessica Parker play a couple with a rapidly failing marriage. They witness a murder and are thrown into the witness protection program, isolated together, forced to get along. Hilarity and sappy romance likely ensue.
★★☆☆☆

PRECIOUS: BASED ON THE NOVEL "PUSH" BY SAPPHIRE
Often gruelling but ultimately illuminating drama about a teenage girl's struggle to find self-worth despite her status ■ bottom ■ the social totem pole — she is African-American, obese, illiterate, abused, pregnant. Don't get that bizarre title, though.
★★★★☆

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG
Anika Noni Rose, John Goodman and Keith David star in Disney's newest holiday heart-warmer. It's the usual fairytale story, with the usual updated jokes and fun for mom and dad. Oh yeah, and the kids too.
★★☆☆☆

INVICTUS
Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon star ■ the inspiring true story of how Nelson Mandela joined forces with the captain of South Africa's rugby team, Francois Pienaar, ■ help unite their country.
★★☆☆☆

BROTHERS
Tobey Maguire, Natalie Portman, and Jake Gyllenhaal star in Jim Sheridan's drama about a love triangle involving a young woman, her soldier husband, and her brother-in-law.
★★★☆☆

EVERYBODY'S FINE
Robert De Niro, Kate Beckinsale, Drew Barrymore, and Sam Rockwell star in the story of a widower who goes on a cross-country trip to visit his four children, ■ of whom have been keeping secrets from him about their lives.
★★★☆☆

GOOD HAIR
Comedian Chris Rock explores African-American women's intense relationship with their hair, directed by Jeff Stilson.
★★★½☆

■ EDUCATION
The hype surrounding Carey Mulligan's performance as a 16-year-old girl in early '60s London who enters a romance with a shifty older man ■ justified — she's vibrant, charming, and intelligent.
★★★½☆

FANTASTIC MR. FOX
Wes Anderson's children's film may be the most purely enjoyable thing he's ever done. ■'s a total delight.
★★★★★

SHOWTIMES JANUARY 1-7, 2010

GARNEAU
8712 - 109 STREET • 780-433-0728

THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS PG
Nightly 6:45, 9:15, Fri Sat & Sun matinees 2:00. Coarse language, frightening scenes.

PRINCESS
10337 - 82 AVENUE • 780-433-0728

THE YOUNG VICTORIA PG
Nightly 7:00, 9:10; Fri Sat & Sun matinees 2:00.

PRECIOUS 14A
Nightly 6:50, 9:10; Fri Sat & Sun matinees 2:30. Sexual violence, coarse language, disturbing content.

PARKLAND
130 Century Crossing, Spruce Grove • 780-962-2332

SHERLOCK HOLMES PG
Nightly 6:45, 9:25; matinees Sat Sun & Tues 12:45, 3:25. Violence, not recommended for young children.

UP IN THE AIR 14A
Nightly 7:10, 9:30; matinees Sat Sun & Tues 1:00, 3:20. Coarse language.

IT'S COMPLICATED 14A
Nightly 7:00, 9:20; matinees Sat Sun & Tues 1:00, 3:20; Movies for Mommies Tues 1:00

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS? PG
Nightly 6:50, 9:05; matinees Sat Sun & Tues 1:05, 3:05

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL PG
Nightly 6:50, 9:00; matinees Sat Sun & Tues 1:00, 3:15

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG G
Nightly 7:00, 9:15; matinees Sat Sun & Tues 1:00, 3:15

AVATAR PG
Nightly 6:30, 9:45; matinees Sat Sun & Thurs 2:00. Violence, not recommended for young children.

METRO CINEMA
9828-101A AVENUE (ZEIDLER HALL, CITADEL THEATRE) • 780-425-9212

TURKEY SHOOT: LOGAN'S RUN STC
[illegible]

GRANDIN THEATRE
GRANDIN MALL, SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL AVE., ST. ALBERT • 780-458-9822

AVATAR PG
Daily 12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 9:15. No passes.

IT'S COMPLICATED 14A
Daily 12:45, 2:55, 5:10, 7:20, 9:35. No passes.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS SQUEAKQUEL G
Daily 1:15, 3:20, 5:05, 7:00, 8:55. No passes.

SHERLOCK HOLMES PG
Daily 1:20, 4:05, 7:10, 9:40. No passes.

PRINCESS AND THE FROG G
Daily 1:00, 3:00, 4:55, 6:50, 8:40

LEDUC CINEMAS
4702-50 St. Leduc • 780-986-2728

INVICTUS PG
Nightly 6:55, 9:30; matinees Fri-Sun 12:55, 3:30. Coarse language.

AVATAR DIGITAL 3D PG
Nightly 6:45, 9:45; matinees Fri-Sun 12:30, 3:35. Violence, not recommended for young children.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL G
Nightly 7:05, 9:15; matinees Fri-Sun 1:05, 3:15

SHERLOCK HOLMES ■
Nightly 7:00, 9:35; matinees Fri-Sun 1:00, 3:35. Violence, not recommended for young children.

WETASKIWIN CINEMA 4 PLEX
3840-56 Wetaskiwin • 780-352-3922

AVATAR PG
Nightly 6:45, 9:45; matinees daily 12:30, 3:35. Violence, not recommended for young children.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL G
Nightly 6:55, 9:15; daily 12:55, 3:15.

SHERLOCK HOLMES PG
Nightly 7:00, 9:35; matinees daily 1:00, 3:35

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG G
Nightly 7:15, 9:20; daily matinees 1:05, 3:20

SOUTH EDMONTON
1525 99 Street • 780-436-8585

SHERLOCK HOLMES PG
Fri-Sun 11:45, 12:30, 3:00, 4:15, 6:45, 7:30, 10:00, 11:00; Mon-Thurs 12:15, 1:00, 3:15, 4:15, 6:45, 7:45, 9:45, 10:45. Not recommended for young children, violence. No passes.

NINE PG
Fri-Sun 1:15, 4:00, 6:50, 9:45; Mon-Thurs 1:15, 4:00, 6:50, 9:30

IT'S COMPLICATED 14A
Fri-Thurs 11:50, 3:40, 6:30, 9:15. No passes.

THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS PG
Fri-Sun 12:45, 4:10, 7:45, 10:45; Mon-Thurs ■ 4:10, 7:25, 10:20. Frightening scenes, coarse language.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL G
Fri-Sun 11:30, 12:15, 2:00, 2:45, 4:30, 5:15, 6:50, 7:30, 9:20; Mon-Wed 11:50, 12:15, 2:45, 5:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50; Thurs 11:50, 12:10, 2:15, 2:45, 4:25, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50. No passes.

AVATAR 3D PG
Fri-Sun 11:15, 12:00, 3:00, 3:15, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 6:00, 9:30, 10:30; Mon-Thurs 11:45, 12:45, 1:30, 3:15, 4:30, 6:30, 7:00, 9:00, 10:00, 10:30. Violence, not recommended for young children. No passes.

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS? PG
Fri-Thurs 1:30, 3:50, 6:35, 9:10

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG ■
Fri-Sun 11:55, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55; Mon-Thurs 11:55, 2:20, 4:50, 7:35, 9:55

INVICTUS STC
Fri-Wed 3:20, 7:35, 10:35; Thurs 3:20, 7:10, 7:35, 10:35

UP IN THE AIR 14A
Fri-Sun 12:25, 4:20, 7:15, 10:40; Mon-Thurs 12:25, 4:20, 7:15, 10:05. Coarse language.

OLD DOGS G
Fri-Wed 9:40; Thurs 10:15

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON PG
Fri-Wed 12:30, 3:45, 7:10, 10:10; Thurs 12:30, 3:45, 10:10. Violence.

THE BLIND SIDE PG
Fri-Thurs 12:10, 3:25, 6:50, 10:15. Mature subject matter.

DISNEY'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL PG
Fri-Thurs 1:[illegible]. Frightening scenes, not recommended for young children.

NORTH EDMONTON
[illegible] Avenue • 780-[illegible]

SHERLOCK HOLMES PG
Fri-Thurs 12:00, 1:10, 3:20, 4:20, 6:45, 7:40, 9:55, 10:40. Not recommended for young children, violence. No passes.

NINE PG
Fri-Thurs 12:10, 3:10, 6:30, 9:20

IT'S COMPLICATED 14A
Fri-Thurs 12:40, 3:40, 6:50, 9:40. No passes.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL G
Fri-Thurs 11:40, 12:30, 2:00, 2:50, 4:10, 5:15, 6:20, 7:30, 9:20. No passes.

AVATAR 3D PG
Fri-Thurs 6:15, 10:00; Fri-Thurs 11:45, 1:00, 3:15, 4:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:30. Violence, not recommended for young children. No passes.

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS? ■
Fri-Thurs 1:30, 4:40, 7:50, 10:20

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG G
Fri-Thurs 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45

INVICTUS STC
Fri-Thurs 3:30, 9:30

UP IN THE AIR 14A
Fri-Thurs 1:20, 4:00, 7:10, 10:00. Coarse language.

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON PG
Fri-Thurs 12:50, 3:50, 7:15, 10:10. Violence.

THE BLIND SIDE PG
Fri-Thurs 12:20, 6:40. Mature subject matter.

2012 ■
Fri-Thurs 3:45. Not recommended for young children, frightening scenes.

DISNEY'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL PG
Fri-Thurs 1:40, 4:00. Frightening scenes, not recommended for young children.

CITY CENTRE 9 CINEMAS
[illegible] FLOOR PHASE II, [illegible] & 102 AVE • [illegible]

SHERLOCK HOLMES PG
Fri-Thurs 12:15, 3:15, 7:00, 10:00. Not recommended for young children, violence. No passes.

AVATAR 3D PG
Fri-Thurs 12:00, 1:00, 4:00, 5:00, 8:00, 9:00. Violence, not recommended for young children. No passes.

UP IN THE AIR 14A
Fri-Thurs 12:45, 3:25, 7:20, 10:20. Coarse language. No passes.

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON PG
Fri-Thurs 12:50, 3:50. Violence.

THE BLIND SIDE PG
Fri-Thurs [illegible], 9:50. Mature subject matter.

INVICTUS STC
Fri-Tues, Thurs 12:20, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45; Wed 12:20, 3:45, 9:45.

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS? PG
Fri-Thurs 12:05, [illegible]:40, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15; Thurs 12:05, 2:40, 10:15

IT'S COMPLICATED 14A
Fri-Thurs 12:10, 3:00, 7:10, 10:10. No passes.

NINE PG
Fri-Thurs 12:30, 3:30, 7:30, 10:30

CLAREVIEW 10 CINEMAS
[illegible] 139TH AVENUE • 780-472-7600

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON PG
Fri-Sun 6:45, 9:35; Mon-Thurs 8:40. Violence.

THE BLIND SIDE PG
Fri-Sun 12:30, 6:35; Mon-Thurs 5:10. Mature subject matter.

UP IN THE AIR 14A
Fri-Sun 1:45, 4:25, 7:15, 9:55; Mon-Thurs 5:45, 8:50. Coarse language. No passes.

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG G
Fri-Sun 1:30, 4:00, 6:50, 9:10; Mon-Thurs 4:50, 7:30.

INVICTUS STC
Fri-Sun 3:30, 9:30; Mon-Thurs 8:15.

AVATAR 3D STC
Fri-Sun 12:45, 1:15, 4:20, 4:50, 8:00, 9:00; Mon-Thurs 6:30, 7:00, 8:50. Violence, not recommended for young children.

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS? PG
Fri-Sun 1:50, 4:[illegible], 7:20, 9:50; Mon-Thurs 5:50, 8:45

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL G
Fri-Sun 12:00, 1:00, 2:20, 3:50, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20; Mon-Thurs 5:00, 5:30, 8:10. No passes.

IT'S COMPLICATED 14A
Fri-Sun 1:20, 4:10, 6:55, 9:45; Mon-Thurs 5:15, 8:30. No passes.

SHERLOCK HOLMES PG
Fri-Sun 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40; Mon-Thurs 5:20, 8:20. Not recommended for young children, violence. No passes.

WESTMOUNT CENTRE CINEMAS
111 AVENUE & GROAT ROAD • 780-455-8726

SHERLOCK HOLMES PG
Fri-Sun 12:45, 3:50, 6:50, 9:55; Mon-Thurs 5:00, 9:00. Not recommended for young children, violence. No passes.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL G
Fri-Sun 1:15, 3:35, 7:05, 9:25; Mon-Thurs 5:30, 8:30. No passes.

IT'S COMPLICATED 14A
Fri-Sun 12:30, 3:20, 6:25, 9:40; Mon-Thurs 5:20, 8:20. No passes.

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS? PG
Fri-Sun 1:10, 4:05, 7:15, 10:05; Mon-Thurs 5:10, 8:10.

SCOTIABANK THEATRE
WEST EDMONTON MALL • 8882 - 170 STREET • 780-444-2400

SHERLOCK HOLMES PG
Fri-Thurs 12:15, 3:20, 7:20, 10:30. No passes. Not recommended for young children, violence.

NINE PG
Fri-Thurs 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45

IT'S COMPLICATED 14A
Fri-Thurs [illegible], [illegible], [illegible]:50, 9:50. No passes.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL G
Fri-Sun 11:30, 11:50, 1:40, 2:20, 4:10, 4:50, 6:40, 9:20; Mon-Thurs 11:50, 1:40, 2:20, 4:10, 6:40, 9:20. No passes.

AVATAR: IMAX PG
Fri-Sun 11:00, 1:00, 2:45, 5:00, 6:30, 9:00, 10:15; Mon-Thurs 1:00, 2:45, 5:00, 6:30, 9:00, 10:15; Fri-Thurs 11:45, 3:15, 7:00, 10:30. Violence, not recommended for young children. No passes.

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG G
Fri-Sun 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40; Mon-Thurs 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40

INVICTUS STC
Fri-Thurs 7:15, 10:20

UP IN THE AIR 14A
Fri-Thurs 1:15, 4:20, 7:30, 10:10. Coarse language.

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON PG
Fri-Wed 12:30, 4:00, 7:40, 10:45; Thurs 12:30, 3:40, 6:30. Violence.

2012 PG
Fri-Thurs [illegible]:30, 6:30, 10:00. Not recommended for young children, frightening scenes.

DISNEY'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL 3D PG
Fri-Thurs [illegible]:30. Frightening scenes, not recommended for young children.

CINEMA CITY MOVIES 12
130 AVENUE & 50 STREET • 780-472-9779

3 IDIOTS HINDI W/E.S.T. PG
Fri-Sat 1:00, 4:15, 7:45, 11:05; Sun-Thurs 1:00, 4:15, 7:45

ROCKET SINGH: SALESMAN OF THE YEAR HINDI W/E.S.T. PG
Fri-Thurs 1:05, 4:25, 7:00. Coarse language.

FANTASTIC MR. FOX PG
Fri-Sat 1:25, 4:10, 6:45, 9:15, [illegible]; Sun-Thurs 1:25, 4:10, 6:45, 9:15.

PLANET 51 G
Fri-Sat 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:20, [illegible]; Sun-Thurs 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, [illegible]

PIRATE RADIO 14A
Fri-Thurs 1:20, 6:50. Coarse language.

AMELIA PG
Fri-Thurs 4:25, [illegible]

ASTRO BOY PG
Fri-Sat 1:50, 4:45, 7:20, 9:35; Sun-Thurs 1:50, 4:45, 7:20, 9:35

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE PG
Fri-Sat 1:30, [illegible], 7:10, 9:25, 11:50; Sun-Thurs 1:30, 4:35, 7:10, 9:25. Not recommended for young children.

LAW ABIDING CITIZEN 18A
Fri-Sat 1:35, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50, 12:10; Sun-Thurs 1:35, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50. Brutal violence.

COUPLES RETREAT PG
Fri-Sat 1:15, 4:00, 7:05, 9:35, 11:55; Sun-Thurs 1:15, 4:00, 7:05, 9:35. Not recommended for children, sexual content.

ZOMBIELAND 18A
Fri-Sat 9:55, 12:05; Sun-Thurs 9:55. Gory violence.

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS G
Fri-Thurs 1:55, 4:40, 7:25

INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS 18A
Fri-Sat 1:00, 4:15, 7:30, 11:05; Sun-Thurs 1:00, 4:15, 7:30. Gory violence.

THE HURT LOCKER 14A
Fri-Thurs 1:10, 4:05, 6:55, 9:45. Violence, coarse language.

GALAXY CINEMAS
2020 SHERWOOD DR., SHERWOOD PARK • 780-416-0150

SHERLOCK HOLMES PG
Fri-Sun 12:15, 3:30, 7:30, 10:20; Mon-Thurs 7:30, 10:20. Not recommended for young children, violence. No passes.

NINE PG
Fri 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00; Sat-Sun 1:00, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00; Mon-Thurs 7:15, 10:00

IT'S COMPLICATED 14A
Fri-Sun 1:30, 4:20, 7:40, 10:30; Mon-Thurs 7:40, 10:20. No passes.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL G
Fri 12:00, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:30; Sat-Sun 12:00, 2:35, 4:45, 7:10, 9:30; Mon-Thurs 7:10, 9:30. No passes.

AVATAR PG
Fri-Sun 1:00, 4:30, 8:15; Mon-Thurs 8:15; Fri-Sun 11:45, 3:15, 7:00, 10:30; Mon-Thurs 7:00, 10:30. Not recommended for young children, violence. No passes.

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS? PG
Fri-Sun 1:10, 4:10, 7:20, 10:10; Mon-Thurs 7:20, 10:10

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG G
Fri-Sun 12:20, 2:45, 6:45, 9:15; Mon-Thurs 6:45, 9:15

INVICTUS STC
Fri-Sun 1:00, 9:40; Mon-Thurs 9:40

UP IN THE AIR 14A
Fri-Sun 12:30, 3:45, 7:45, 10:15; Mon-Thurs 7:45, 10:15. Coarse language.

THE BLIND SIDE PG
Fri-Sun 1:20, 6:50; Mon-Thurs 6:50

> I DO NOT PROFESS TO BE A HUGE MUSICAL FAN, BUT I'M BEGINNING TO RETHINK MY **SENSE OF SELF-IDENTIFICATION.**

THEATRE • YEAR IN REVIEW • BY HEATHER FITZSIMMONS FREY | 810 words

Memories, Musicals and Mitzi, Oh My!

SEE'S HEATHER FITZSIMMONS FREY TALKS TO THEATRE ARTISTS AND GETS THE SKINNY ON THE BEST OF THIS YEAR'S SEASON

When I asked half a dozen of Edmonton's theatre professionals the question, "What was memorable about theatre for you in 2009?" the answers were celebratory, peppered with enthusiasm and seasoned with grief. They talk of Walterdale Theatre celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year and about new companies making brave choices. And everyone talks about people they love and people they miss. Here is a sampling of their thoughts, which I hope will resonate with theatre aficionados in the city.

Musicals are swinging. "I do not profess to be a huge musical fan, but I'm beginning to re-think my sense of self-identification... [in 2009] I left theatres smiling to myself and humming," exclaims Trevor Schmidt, Northern Light Theatre's artistic director. And he is certainly not the only one. Actor/Producer Kristi Hansen gushes, "I am sooo thrilled that Teatro announced they will present a new musical every year from now on. Many artists mention *Nevermore* (Catalyst Theatre), *Everybody Goes to Mitzi's* (Teatro la Quindicina), and *The Drowsy Chaperone* (the Citadel). Director/Dramaturge Tracy Carroll loves the St Albert Children's Theatre Production of *Willy Wonka*. "I took my family to see it and it was incredible! The children are so talented, director Janice Flower is amazing, and Marissa Kochanski's design was super complex. We all loved it," Judy Stelck, General Manager of Edmonton's Community Box Office, Tix on the Square, praises an independent production of *Sweeney Todd* by Two One-Way Tickets to Broadway.

Great stories are everywhere. University of Alberta drama professor Kathleen Weiss is delighted that the Citadel produced *Scorched*. "That Wajdi Mouawad's work is even happening here is such a great thing," Trevor Schmidt praises. Darrin Hagen's *Buddy's* "extremely stripped down script without an overt political statement," Kristi Hansen applauds. Azimuth Theatre's *The Tall Building*. "I was so excited by this production... cracker-jack script... amazing set, lighting and sound design... air-tight directing," Tracy Carroll raves about. Nathan Cuckow and Beth Graham's Victor and Victoria's *Terrifying Tale of Terrible Things*. "It was at the Fringe, but it should be at regional theatres across the country at Hallowe'en!" The bold choice to put *Titus Andronicus* on the River City Shakespeare Festival stage, along with Belinda Cornish's "brilliant" performance as Tamora impresses Kristi Hansen, while Stage Manager/Production Manager Gina Puntil "waves pom-poms" for the Sprouts Festival of new plays for children. "I was a Sprouts virgin until this year. I don't know what I was expecting, but I was thrilled by the readings."

Poe Little Edgar | Catalyst Theatre's *Nevermore* is on top in 2009. PHOTO SUPPLIED

Independent work is thriving. Drama Prof. Kathleen Weiss claims. "Consistently in Edmonton, the most interesting work is independent." Weiss likes Kill Your Television's "beautiful, subtle, well acted and directed *Hello, Hello*," and Ian Leung's "snappy, fun, thought provoking" *U: The Comedy of Global Warming*. Although the Fringe Festival is still the epicenter of independent work, indie theatre is getting easier to see during the rest of the year, through Theatre Network's Performance Series, the Indie5 Theatre Season, and Workshop West's Canoe Festival.

Video is being used better than ever. "Ian Jackson's video work in Theatre Network's *Buddy* was the best I have EVER seen," says Kristi Hansen. Trevor Schmidt goes farther, saying, "I remember sitting in the second row and being conscious in the moment that I was watching something very new and different for the theatre community in Edmonton — a kind of theatre history being made. The way that the very simple yet completely innovative video work was so completely integrated into the presentation — more than integrated INTO the presentation, it was the presentation."

Theatre for Young Audiences gets respect. This year the annual Sterling Awards threatened to eliminate the award for theatre for young audiences. But the whole community mobilized with a thunderous response, rallying behind the importance of theatre for young people. Tracy Carroll says, "People were passionate about it! They said amazing things about why the need for theatre for young audiences is obvious!"

The theatre professionals I talked to couldn't say enough memorable things about their colleagues and their shows. The positive energy could burn a hole through this paper. Words like "incredible", "hilarious", "inspiring", "lovely", "generous", "hard working" fill conversations like snowflakes at Christmas. And everyone dearly misses the lovely Joe Bird and Gilbert Bouchard.

It's interesting that according to Judy Stelck of TIX, despite the economic gloom people continue to see the work that interests them: she says it was a good year for ticket sales. People may have been tightening their belts but "people still went to theatre. The Catalyst had another great hit with *Nevermore*, and I don't remember Teatro la Quindicina ever selling anything better than *Everybody Goes to Mitzi's*."

More than the Coldest Place On Earth | Winter Lights Festival coming soon to a park near you

ARTS BRIEF • EDMONTON TURNS ON THE WINTER LIGHTS

Winter Light Festival

Various Locations | Running throughout the winter.

By now, most Internet users have seen the Extreme Shepherding video on YouTube. A handful of Welsh farmers attach LED lights to their sheep, creating incredible effects and if you haven't witnessed this spectacle, I suggest looking it up. A similar effort is being organized in Edmonton in conjunction with this year's Winter Light extravaganza where light is the founding theme.

Bark in the Dark, a light party for dog lovers, is part of the big winter event happening at the end of February. Another fun night during this dark season is Baba Yaga, a winter walk through the river valley organized with local artists who create light adventures along the way. The Festival kicks off this Wednesday with an opening gala at City Hall. Mispon (mis-p'wn), the name of the event is Cree for "It's snowing," which it probably will. But along with the snow will be everything enjoyable about winter — ice skating, music carried through the chilly air and of course, a roaring fire. "Each festival has a distinct theme, but also has a common thread of a warm fire and the Winter Light welcome. So there's always a cozy place," says Winter Light's director Pamela Anthony. "We really had a chance to refresh winter for people. We're going to try and create little pockets of magic."

In its second year, Winter Light is producing new events while collaborating with others that have been well established in the city, like the Silver Skate Festival in Hawrelak Park. Celebrating its 20th year of snowshoeing, ice skating and sleigh rides, Winter Light is adding more light with the 24 Hrs To Ignition art competition where creations are set ablaze and then judged. While those sculptures won't last long, the annual Ice On Whyte ice carving festival, which is now internationally recognized, will display fabulous frozen creations in Old Strathcona for a full 10 days.

For details on Winter Light and all the events organized across the city, go online: www.winterlight.ca.

BOOKS · BEST OF THE YEAR · BY MICHAEL HINGSTON | 1551 words

Year Of The Book

He is Not Sidney Poitier | Percival Everett writes a wild ride. PHOTO SUPPLIED

SEE'S MICHAEL HINGSTON LISTS HIS PERSONAL FAVOURITES, AND MAKES HIS APOLOGIES ACCORDINGLY.

This is meant to be a rundown of my favourite books of the year, but it feels more like a string of glaring omissions and apologies. It just isn't fair with books. Nobody can read everything released in a given year – nobody comes close. The best you can aim for is a fraction of a fraction. Accordingly, this list goes out to all those I never got to in time (Dan Chaon and Geoff Dyer, forgive me), as well as those to whom history may be kinder than I was the first time around (sorry, Lorrie Moore). That being said, here's what stuck out for me in 2009, in alphabetical order.

Zeitoun, by Dave Eggers. Hurricane Katrina did untold damage to thousands of lives back in 2005, though most of it wasn't even the storm's fault. In this harrowing, stripped-simple story of one of those lives – a Syrian-born contractor named Abdulrahman Zeitoun – Eggers deftly reveals the consequences of the American government's mismanagement of the situation from the ground floor. Proof that bureaucrats and private thuggery can swallow goodness whole if you aren't fighting back every step of the way.

I Am Not Sidney Poitier, by Percival Everett. The picaresque is revealed to be alive and well with this, the 17th novel by Percival Everett. While our hero, the unfortunately named Not Sidney Poitier, doesn't do much in the way of maturing, he does run up against a cavalcade of ridiculous obstacles to deal with from being arrested in the American South for driving while black, to attempting to solve what appears to be his own murder. Also featuring hilarious cameos by Bill Cosby, Ted Turner and an unhinged philosophy professor named Percival Everett.

Love and Obstacles, by Alexander Hemon. I wouldn't recommend anyone try and emulate this Bosnian emigre's approach to writing, since all he does is re-cast stories from his personal life with the thinnest of fictional glazes. He's got to be a creative writing professor's worst nightmare. Then again, maybe Hemon leads the most highly charmed of lives, since virtually every story here is a knockout – full of drunk wit, pinpoint detail, and the ache that comes with being far from home.

Chronic City by Jonathan Lethem / ***Inherent Vice*** by Thomas Pynchon. Two of the most purely enjoyable books of the year share a lot of common ground, including pot-induced paranoia, scores of forgotten films and records, and detective characters whose methods of uncovering the truth could charitably be called "unconventional." "Completely fucking insane" works as well. Yet both books are keenly aware and in control of their own lunacy, and both beg to be devoured.

Changing My Mind: Occasional Essays by Zadie Smith. One of England's most energetic novelists switches gears for this, her first book of non-fiction. It's a gem. Smith is a superb close reader – she deals mostly with film and literature, from Old Hollywood to the front lines of experimental fiction – but the real delights come whenever she draws on something most working critics seem to leave at home: passion. Her closing essay on the late David Foster Wallace is at once the most exuberant and elegant tribute to the man yet committed to paper.

BOOKS · DECADE · BY BARRY HAMMOND | 1111 WORDS

A Decade In Six Books

SO WHAT IF MANY OF THESE WERE PUBLISHED IN THE '90S. THESE POWERHOUSE BOOKS STILL SHAPED THE DECADE.

At this time of year, entertainment magazines are incessantly recapping, doing top 10 lists of books, discs or films of the preceding annum. And of course, this year, since it's the end of a decade, there are also the same interpretations of the past 10 years. I confess I'm generally annoyed by these lists because I always think the choices are at best personal and, at worst, completely wrong. Having said that, I'm now going to annoy you by giving you a list of my choices for the six most influential books of the last decade. It's an odd number just to avoid the even symmetry of those other lists and because I think they're good examples of larger trends in publishing.

The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown. Ha! I'm sure that's pissed you off right off the bat but it's the perfect example of the book that's popular with the general public but which is despised by critics. It may not be highbrow or great literature but more people read it than any other book of the past 10 years. When the publishers were promoting Brown's latest, The Lost Symbol, this fall they stated "The Da Vinci Code was "the best-selling book of all time." Of ALL TIME! How many writers can say that? And Brown's not the first writer to fall in that category. Previous holders of this dubious title have been the likes of Anne Rice, Stephen King, Barbara Taylor Bradford, Robert Ludlum, Diana Gabaldon, James Michener, Wilbur Smith, Jackie Collins, Ken Follett or Danielle Steel. Everything doesn't have to be literature." People read books whether critics like them or not.

Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone by J.K. Rowling. Yes, I know it was published in 1997 in the UK and in 1998 in the US, so, technically it falls outside the decade, but that's the trouble with history and reality, they don't conform to tidy little lists. It and the six books which followed it are still the most influential young reader's books published and turned thousands of kids onto the pleasures of reading in an age where they were supposedly being seduced by video games and computers into being non-readers. So much for that idea. Besides, it it wasn't for these books we wouldn't have Christopher Paolini's *Eragon* & *Eldest*, Lemony Snicket, Cornelia Funke's *Inkheart* trilogy or probably even the current hot *Twilight* series by Stephenie Meyer.

The Lord Of The Rings trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien. Again, yes, it was first published in 1954 to 1955 but fuelled by the success of Peter Jackson's film trilogy (the first of which was released in 2001) it's still been a huge force of the past decade. And it's the granddaddy of all fantasy and sword and sorcery books. Without its influence there'd be no Terry Goodkind, Robert Jordan or R.A. Salvatore. In the past decade, fantasy was king.

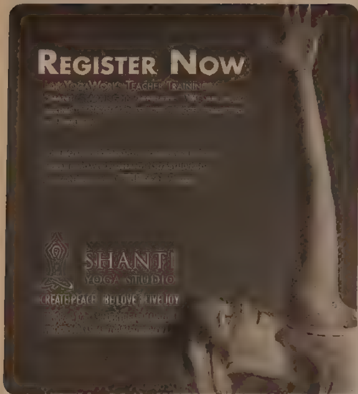
Guns, Germs and Steel by Jared Diamond. Also a 1997 book but it's still the best-selling non-fiction book of the past ten years and a model for many others.

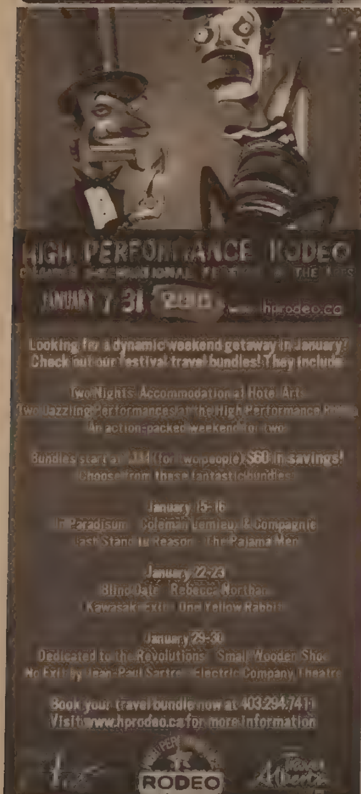
The Power Of Now by Eckhart Tolle. The book itself isn't so great (it's been called "Buddhism-Lite" by its detractors) but it's the perfect example of the rise in books on spirituality and superstition fuelled by daytime talk shows like Oprah, The View, and Ellen. This has, in turn, given rise to a backlash of scientific books during the past ten years by the likes of Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, Sam Harris, Daniel Dennett and Damian Thompson's *Counterknowledge*. It, too, first appeared in 1997, so maybe we should just declare that year as the first official year of the past decade.

Maus by Art Spiegelman. It was actually outside the decade too (having been originally published from 1972-1991) but the past 10 years have certainly been the decade of the rise of the graphic novel and this was one of the most influential aside from *The Dark Knight* and *The Watchmen* and it still sells more than any other graphic novel in the bookstores.

So, that's the list, shaved down to conform to this space, and leaving out other trends like celebrity cook books, get-rich-quick-books and fix-your-relationship books, all of which could be an article in themselves, not to mention trends that didn't materialize to any significant degree like the E-Book. Paper still rules!

DaVinci Mode | Dan Brown writes a sell. PHOTO SUPPLIED





ARTS · THE YEAR IN VISUAL ARTS · BY HEATHER MORROW | 677 words

The Best And Worst Of Times

THE POSITIVITY OF THIS YEAR IN VISUAL ARTS IS TEMPERED BY THE LOSS A COLOURFUL COMMENTATOR

Eventful: that's the best description of Edmonton's visual arts scene of 2009. We experienced some great exhibits – planned of course – and some very unplanned events.

Todd Janes, artistic director at Latitude 53, enthusiastically recalls both exhibitions and events that took place in the arts scene over the last year. Janes remembered the 10-hour-long performance of Julianna Barabas, part of the Art Gallery of Alberta's "Leaving Olympia." Janes thought Barabas' show was "important because often performance isn't always looked at enough in contemporary art." Daryl Volcat and Dana Holst, "were both really strong shows" at Latitude in 2009, and Holst also had an exhibition ■ the Sideshow gallery in Mill Creek. That venue drew an excellent response showcasing several local artists this past year.

Among the funkiest of venues in the city is the Blue Plate Diner, which has a new curator, Josee Aubin Ouellette, for the art surrounding the diner's patrons. Currently featured at the Blue Plate is a show of still life paintings, as well as furniture and still-life setups of everyday objects, by several recent graduates of the University of Alberta's visual art program. Outside the Blue Plate, Ouellette's most memorable shows of 2009 were Chelsea Boos' "you are here" at Latitude 53, consisting of a hand-felted tent with telescopes to create a mini-planetarium; "Noise Play", at the Saddlery building; and "Cube not Square" by Alexander Stewart at the Hydeway, combining painting with video elements. Stewart is still attending the U of A and Ouellette felt it's "nice to see such a young artist who was so ambitious."

Todd Crawshaw at the Royal Alberta Museum remembers a few exhibitions which particularly brought together the facility's goals of visual spectacle and social history. Last summer the Royal Alberta struck a coup, hosting the North American premiere of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year. This exhibition of 800 photos, submitted to BBC Wildlife Magazine, consisted of both "beautiful and disturbing images of man's inhumanity to nature," and it was up to the viewer to view the work "independent of moral context ... and decide how they impact nature." The Museum's current show, "Diamonds: Mined, Refined and Designed," also shows beautiful objects while presenting the facts of where they come from and industry's impact on society and the natural world.

Of all events swirling round the art itself, the greatest excitement has been generated by the new Art Gallery of Alberta. Janes at Latitude says the prevailing comment is "It sure is shiny!" He's been very impressed with how the Gallery's temporary space in Enterprise Square was used to showcase more Alberta artists and he "looks forward to the hope of integrating Alberta and international artists" at the spanking new space. Crawshaw also feels that "anything that gets the city talking is inspirational" and the new Gallery is a "brilliant design to house contemporary and international exhibitions."

Janes is also looking forward to when collage artist Kristi Malakofs' work appears at Latitude 53 next year, and to what comes next from Alberta's Brenda Draney, winner of the 2009 RBC Canadian Painting Competition. Aside from her Blue Plate duties, Ouellette will also be curating the visual arts of 2010's NextFest, an important opportunity for local, upcoming artists; this year the festival may have more group shows at larger venues, rather than several individual exhibits.

Among the saddest and most unexpected of 2009's events was the death of arts reporter Gilbert Bouchard. Todd Janes described the loss. "Gilbert gave an enormous amount of generosity and compassion to artists," and now his "gift is dwarfed by him not being here." Edmonton's art community misses you, Gilbert; here's to hoping all the great events planned for 2010 help us to eventually absorb your absence.

EXHIBITS

3 OCTOBERS *FLAVOURS MODERN BISTRO, 10354 WHYTE AVE. TO MAR 11* A photography exhibition by Tracey Tomtene, documenting 3 Octobers in New York city. Info: 439-9604.

ANOTHER BRUSH *TU GALLERY, 10718-124 ST. TO JAN 16* Cartoons and watercolours by Yardley Jones. Info: 452-9664.

ART GALLERY *KAMENA GALLERY, 5718 CALGARY TRAIL* Featuring various artwork. Info: 944-9497.

CRAZY FAMILY *RED GALLERY, 9621 WHYTE AVE. TO DEC 31* Paintings by Christi Bergstrom depicting her family over the years. Info: 498-1984/www.redgallery.ca.

DIAMONDS: MINED, REFINED, AND DESIGNED *ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM, 12845-102 AVE. TO JAN 17* An exhibit focusing on the processes of finding, extracting, and cutting diamonds. Info: 453-9100.

EXPANSIVE NEEDLE CRAFT *STRATHCONA PLACE SENIORS CENTRE, 10831 UNIVERSITY AVE. JAN 5-28* By Amanda Jones. Info: 4330-5807.

GROUP SHOW *CENTRE D'ARTS VISUELS DE L'ALBERTA, 9103-95 AVE. JAN 5-MAR 10* Paintings, sculptures, woodwork, and pottery by 150 artists. Info: 461-3427.

INGRAVIDA *KAASA GALLERY, 11455-87 AVE. TO FEB 28* Images by Lisa Tomak.

A LITTLE BIT OF THIS, A LITTLE BIT OF THAT *SIDESHOW GALLERY, 9609-82 AVE. TO JAN 2* A group exhibition by Anthony Baker, Brandon Dalmer, Susan Fothergill, Marysol Foucault, Dana Holst, Travis McEwen, Esther Scott, Jodi Sharp, Jill Watamaniuk, and Laurel Westlund. Info: www.sideshowgallery.ca.

LOVE LETTERS TO FEMINISM *ASSINIBOIA HALL (U OF A) 114 ST.-89 AVE. TO DEC 31* Hosted by the U of A's Women Studies Program.

LOVE 'EM, HATE 'EM: CANADIANS AND THEIR POLITICIANS *MUSÉE HÉRITAGE MUSEUMS, ST. ANNE ST, ST. ALBERT TO FEB 14* Artwork depicting past political leaders. Info: 459-1528.

MUCH MORE MUNSCH *ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM, 12845-102 AVE. TO APR 6* An interactive exhibit which brings some of the author's famous children's stories to life. Info: 453-9100.

A NORTHERN ALPHABET *ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM, 12845-102 AVE. TO JAN 31* Artwork by Ted Harrison. Info: 453-9100.

NEW WORK *THE ARTERY, 9535 JASPER AVE. TO JAN 16* An exhibition by EAC's Cultural Diversity in the Arts Program. Info: 441-6966.

NEW WORKS *DANDY SALON, 11104-82 AVE. TO DEC 31* Drawings by Moana Wasywich. Info: 433-7078.

NOW AND THEN *PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA, 8555 ROPER RD. TO JAN 24* Photography by Images Camera Club. Info: 427-1750.

PEOPLE MAKE YOU SMILE *ART BEAT GALLERY, 26 ST. ANNE ST., ST. ALBERT TO DEC 31* Paintings by Buddy Kennedy and Angela Morgan. New work by Frances Alty-Arscott, Shirley Cordes-Rogozinsky, Igor Postash, Bev Bunker, Fran Heath, Min Ma, and Audrey Pfannmuller.

RUSS HOGER *MULTICULTURAL CENTRE PUBLIC ART GALLERY, 5411-51 ST. STONY PLAIN TO JAN 20* Paintings by the Russ Hoger. Info: 963-2777.

STITCHING INSPIRATIONS FROM NATURE *JEFF ALLEN GALLERY, STRATHCONA SENIORS CENTRE, 10831 UNIVERSITY AVE. JAN 5-28* An exhibit by The Edmonton Needlecraft Guild. Info: 433-5807.

STREAM TO THE RIVER *FRINGE GALLERY, 10516 WHYTE AVE. TO JAN 15* Oils on canvas by Jennifer Shook. Info: 432-0240.

SUMMER *GALLERY AT MILNER, STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY, CHURCHILL SQUARE JAN 4-29* Oil paintings by Tabitha Gillman.

UNDER THE IMPRESSION [ET AL] *FAB GALLERY, FINE ARTS BUILDING, U OF A JAN 5-16* An Exhibition of Print Portfolios. Info: 492-3261.

VANISHING CULTURES *ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM, 12845-102 AVE. TO JAN 31* Photography by Larry Louie, documenting world cultures on the precipice of dramatic change. Info: 453-9100.

VISIBLE WORK, INVISIBLE WOMEN *EXTENSION CENTRE GALLERY, MAIN FLOOR ATRIUM, 10230 JASPER AVE. TO JAN 6* Photography by Palagummi Sainath. Info: 492-6442.

WET PAINT *STUDIO GALLERY, 11 PERRON ST, ST. ALBERT TO DEC 31* Artwork by the Visual Arts Studio Association. Info: 460-5993.

WINTER COLLECTION *WEST END GALLERY, 12308 JASPER AVE. TO JAN 31* Artwork by Robert Savignac, Claudette Castonguay, Pierre Giroux, Rod Charlesworth, Claude A. Simmard, Bill Webb, and Glen Semple. Info: 433-3399.

THEATRE

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR *JUBILEE AUDITORIUM, 11455-87 AVE. JAN 2-3* Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's rock opera about Nazareth's favorite son. Tickets: www.ticketmaster.ca.

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT *FESTIVAL PLACE, 100 FESTIVAL WAY, SHERWOOD PARK TO JAN 3* A biblical saga of Joseph and his coat of many colors comes to life in the popular musical parable. Info: www.festivalplace.ab.ca/449-3378.

LUCK BE A LADY *JUBILATIONS DINNER THEATRE (WEM) TO JAN 23* A tribute to the music ■ Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and other Vegas legends.

A NEW YEARS EVE TO DIE FOR: CRIMES OF THE HEART *RAMADA HOTEL KINGSWAY, 11834 KINGSWAY AVE. DEC 31* Kellen Frost, Johnell McClelland, and Ecko Goffic star in the story of murder and mayhem when a struggling business tries to save themselves from going under. Tickets: www.ticketmaster.ca. 6:30 p.m.

OH SUSANNA! *VARSCONA THEATRE, 10329-83 AVE.* Last Saturday of every month. 11 p.m.

THE SUPER GROOVY '70S *MAYFIELD DINNER THEATRE, 16615-109 AVE. TO FEB 14* A tribute to the far-out music and fashion of the '70s music. Tickets: www.mayfieldtheatre.ca.

COMEDY

ALTERNATIVE TUESDAYS *THE COMIC STRIP (WEM)* Doors @ 8 p.m. Tickets: $12. Info: www.thecomicstrip.ca.

AMATEUR NIGHT *THE LAUGH SHOP, 2ND FLOOR, 10368 WHYTE AVE.* Every Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 p.m. Info: 476-1010/www.thelaughshop.ca.

DENNIS ROSS *COMEDY FACTORY, #408, 3414 GATEWAY BLVD. JAN 1-2* Info: 469-4999.

THE DRUID COMEDY NIGHT *11606 JASPER AVE.* Professional and amateur comedians, every Sun @ 9 p.m.

HIT OR MISS MONDAYS *THE COMIC STRIP (WEM)* Amateur comedy. Doors @ 8 p.m. Info: www.thecomicstrip.ca/483-5999.

THE HYDEAWAY COMEDY NIGHT *HYDEAWAY ALL AGES ART SPACE, 10209-100 AVE.* Tuesdays at 9 p.m.

PAUL MYREHAUG *YUK YUK'S, CENTURY CASINO DEC 31* With Sean Lecomber, and Mike Craigdaille. Tickets: www.yukyuks.com.

RICH HALL *THE LAUGH SHOP, 2ND FLOOR, 10368 WHYTE AVE. DEC 31* Tickets: www.thelaughshop.ca.

UNDERGROUND COMEDY NIGHT *LIQUID LOUNGE, 10081 JASPER AVE.* First Tuesday of every month. 9 p.m.

WINSTON SPEAR *THE COMIC STRIP (WEM) DEC 30-JAN 3* With guests. Info: 483-5999. Tickets: www.thecomicstrip.ca.

SEX » ADVICE | 1,329 words

Is My Wife A Cheat To Tongue Kiss A Gay Friend?

SAVAGE LOVE · DAN SAVAGE

DAN TELLS A JEALOUS HUSBAND TO QUIT BEING SUCH A FUCKING DOUCHEBAG BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

Set me straight. I married my wife several months ago after dating for three years. Things are generally excellent, except for one problem: When my wife gets drunk, she gets crazy flirtatious. She'll dance close to people, touch them, hold hands. A couple of times, I thought it went too far and I told her she was making me uncomfortable. She claims it is just harmless friendliness/flirtation and she would never let anything happen.

Well, as it turns out something did happen. After she was dancing, hugging and getting kissed on the cheek by a woman I think was a lesbian at a recent party, it came out during the subsequent argument that in year two of our relationship, she was high and dancing at a club with several gay men and she French-kissed one of the friends. While she acknowledges that a line was crossed (which is why she didn't tell me when it happened), she says it was just a very intense but regrettable "friendship moment" and nothing more. She says this gay man is not bi.

I'm grappling with three issues (1) Did she cheat? Although we've never talked about the rules concerning kissing gay friends, we both know she crossed a line (there was tongue). (2) How much did she betray me by not telling me until after we were married? (3) Am I being a selfish prude by caring about either her aggressive flirting or this kiss? She is very contrite and swears she will calm down the flirtation. Should I forgive her and move on? Or should I run the hell away before it's too late?

Seriously Troubled Here

1. No.

2. Your wife's failure to disclose a single drugged-up blissed-out pre-exchange-of-vows kiss shared with a gay dude on a dance floor – even with tongue – does not constitute a "betrayal." It constitutes an omission.

3. Yes, STH, you are being a selfish prude, and yes, you should forgive her.

The aggressive flirting could be a problem – if your wife is flirting aggressively. I'm wary of accepting your characterization of her behaviour at face value, STH, as your overreaction to the kiss leads me to believe that you might not be rational about your wife's behaviour generally. When you see getting too near, dancing too close and being too friendly a slightly less paranoid, controlling spouse might see innocent flirtatiousness. But if she agrees that her flirting is indeed a problem – if for no other reason than it bothers her husband – and she's willing to tamp it down for your sake, you should "forgive her and move on," by which I mean: "You should cease being such a fucking douchebag about (1) the kiss and (2) the flirting and (3) the fucking kiss already."

That said, STH, I wouldn't want to be married to a man who claimed to love me but couldn't forgive me for something so trifling as a meaningless kiss. So I'm not sure I'm doing your wife any favours by talking you off the ledge. Honestly, STH, someone who is hesitant to forgive is hardly husband material. A successful marriage is basically an endless cycle of wrongs committed, apologies offered and forgiveness granted, STH, all leavened by the occasional orgasm. If you're having such a hard time forgiving her for this piddling "betrayal," STH, you're not cut out for marriage and your wife may want to run away before it's too late.

A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE IS BASICALLY AND ENDLESS CYCLE OF WRONGS COMMITTED, APOLOGIES OFFERED AND FORGIVENESS GRANTED, ALL LEAVENED BY THE OCCASIONAL ORGASM.

My husband and I have a "don't ask, don't tell" policy when we're apart. A few months ago, I hooked up with a guy on a business trip who said he and his wife have the same arrangement. He was lying. His wife found out and started harassing me on Facebook. I truly feel horrible. How can I know if someone is really in an open relationship when they say they are? I am so done.

Fucking Asshole Idiot Losers

The only way to verify that someone is in an open relationship is to speak to that person's partner – and that would constitute "telling," FAIL, and a violation of a "don't ask, don't tell" policy. But even a couple with a "please ask, do tell" policy probably has a rule against 2 a.m. calls from drunken hotel bar pickups. So you'll just have to trust your gut, FAIL, which failed you here. Just remember this on your next business trip. The further a married person is from home and the drunker that married person is, the likelier it is that that married person is lying to you.

I'm a 17-year-old gay male. I'm into farts. It took me a while to come to terms with that. I attend a moderate-sized high school where there are very few out gay guys, so I'm desperately looking forward to meeting new people in college. The thing is, I've gleaned from your column that my fetish is a handicap. It was hard enough accepting that I'm gay and harder still to accept that I have a fart fetish. Do I now have to accept that I will never be able to go through the cycle of human sexual bonding in a normal way, since you suggest that fetishists like me should stick to sex workers and online-organized hookups with fellow fetishists?

I don't mean to be combative. I'm just wondering what lies in store for me and whether there's any hope. I'm not a sick bastard in any way but this, and it would be devastating for me.

Help Out Pubescent Eproctophiliac

Here's what lies in store for you, HOPE. You're going to meet guys online who share your fetish. There aren't tons of you out there, I'm sorry-ish to say, so that means the odds are slim that you'll meet a fellow eproctophiliac living on or near your campus. And if you do find someone online who lives on or near your campus who shares your kink, the odds that you'll be both physically and romantically attracted to him – the odds that he'll be boyfriend material – are slimmer still.

But rest assured. People meet online every day – straight people, queer people, vanillas, kinksters – and fall in love. If you do find someone online who shares your kink and whom you click with, HOPE, don't make the mistake of ruling him out as a boyfriend just because you met

SAVAGE cont'd on p. 31

SAVAGE (cont'd from p. 34)

him in a kinky chat room. You were in that chat room and you're relationship material, right? And if you meet a fellow fetishist whom you're really into who lives on the other side of the country, well, that totally blows. But the rarer a fetish, the greater the lengths a fetishist sometimes has to go to find a partner. If you're into him and he's into you and he's relationship material, get your ass on an airplane and go see the boy. (Take all the usual precautions — get his real name and real phone number, have your first meeting in a public place, make sure someone knows where you're going, have someplace to stay, etc.).

You'll also be able to meet guys the normal way, HOPE — in your classes, in bars, at parties, and via non-kink hookup websites popular with gay college boys. You may wind up partnered with a guy who finds you so attractive that he's willing to indulge you. Or, like a lot of people with unique and/or challenging fetishes, you may wind up in a long-term relationship with a loving partner with whom you enjoy vanilla sex while indulging your fetish via online porn, chats, webcam sessions and, yes, an understanding sex worker whom you treat with respect and overtip.

So there's hope for you, HOPE. *Find the Savage Lovecast (Dan's weekly podcast) every Tuesday at thestranger.com/savage.*

ASTROLOGY • DEC. 31–JAN. 6 • BY THE KID

CRUISIN' THE COSMOS

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22 – JAN. 19)
Like the element that represents your sign, ♑ 2010 it's rock-solid time. Dig in, stand firm and hold your ground or you're in grave danger of gettin' pushed around. You don't necessarily have to be mean, but do what you must to ensure you don't sell out your dream!

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 – FEB. 18)
Though you wacky Aquis are well-known agents of change, even you'll be surprised at the way life's rearranged in 2010. You'll get sick 'n' tired of things for which you thought your desire would never expire, and find something great in things you used to hate. Prepare for a tickin' from the fickle finger of fate!

PISCES (FEB. 19 – MARCH 20)
The salmon's upstream struggle is a great metaphor, but don't take that fish-comparison too far. Especially in 2010, when fightin' the current could break your spirit like it was some kinda fish-shaped cheesy cracker. You've gotta go with the flow even if it means meetin' parts o' yourself you'd rather not know!

ARIES (MARCH 21 – APRIL 19)
In 2010 you need to learn a lesson or two from Libra, the sign opposite you. Mainly you need to glean how to balance your talents instead o' swingin' from extreme to extreme. The quicker you bring order to your army and its arsenal, the sooner you'll find your war-chest is full!

TAURUS (APRIL 20 – MAY 20)
A Taurus'll give it their all, even if it means repeatedly bangin' their head into a wall until either it, or the bull, finally falls. That proves you got balls, but what about brains? In 2010, it's time to learn when to refrain from floggin' a dead horse until you finally feel pain!

GEMINI (MAY 21 – JUNE 20)
With your supreme intellect you sometimes feel you're high above the pedestrian population and the common concerns they're frequently facin'. Well, there's a thin line between haughty and snotty. In 2006, get your hands dirty 'cause the sooner you jump into the fray, the sooner rewards'll be headed your way!

CANCER (JUNE 21 – JULY 22)
Cancers can't ever be completely carefree 'cause carin's at the core of their identity. With social malaise more prevalent these days, it looks like 2010 will bear down on you like tanks at Tiananmen. Although you'll naturally carry some o' that weight, shouldern' more is your choice — not inescapable fate!

LEO (JULY 23 – AUG. 22)
If there's one thing a fire sign needs, it's heat — especially the type that results from friction. Like most cats, rubbin' you the wrong way gets you riled up and ready to rumble and gives you cause to use the claws ♌ your paws. In 2010, you should be bettin' on getting your fair share o' that backwards pettin'!

VIRGO (AUG. 23 – SEPT. 22)
Like a market collapse or a pyramid scheme, reality can hit you hard where you dream. In 2010 success will be even more slippery if the mechanics behind it are ones you can't see — or worse, won't. If things look so swell on the surface you figure they don't need attention, you'll hoist yourself on the petard of your lethargic intentions!

LIBRA (SEPT. 23 – OCT. 22)
Venus, your ruler, has always held an uneasy truce with Mars. In 2010, it'll be put under strain as Mars makes his move to gain some terrain by causin' unrest in your brain. Although you prefer peace and tranquility, this year you'll need ♎ fight to keep your life trouble-free!

SCORPIO (OCT. 23 – NOV. 21)
Instead of being the one-tenth of the iceberg above water or the nine-tenths below, in 2010 you'll exist somewhere between — ♏ limbo. ♏ be a peculiar year for you as you try to encompass and live with both points of view. This year the best thing you can do is sort out your daily affairs. While you do, they'll sort out theirs!

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22 – DEC. 21)
As a symbol of progressive ideas, the most dangerous thing a Sagittarius can do is lose their edge. Well, just 'cause you ain't aimin' your arrows high don't mean your bow ain't locked 'n' loaded. In 2010, if you drop your arms to your side, you'll shoot yourself in the foot and seriously wound your pride!

classifieds

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190. Announcements

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200. Business/Invest. Oppor.

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9700. Support Groups

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1500. Help Wanted — Alta.

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MANAGER OF TRACK. Kelowna Pacific Railway Ltd. (KPR) is accepting applications for our Manager of Track position. KPR operates in the Okanagan Valley and this position will work out of our Vernon, BC office. Experience in all aspects of track work is essential for this position including track equipment, track inspections, rules and regulatory, budgeting, costing and good computer and communication skills. Please submit resume to: info@khawk.ca. Only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

MONEY MAKER. Local route. No selling on your part. For more info call 1-866-978-2569.

1600. Volunteers Wanted

Job Shadow Volunteers Needed!
Host a U of A student in your workplace in February.
www.caps.ualberta.ca.

Right, Left, Repeat. Complete a Marathon. Raise funds. Help give the boot to blood cancers.
www.teamintraining.ca/ab

The Sexual Assault Centre is recruiting volunteers for our 24 hours crisis line. We offer 50 hours of crisis intervention training at no charge. Please call Joy at 780-423-4102 or email at joys@sace.ab.ca for more information.

1600. Volunteers Wanted

Train. Endure. Achieve. Matter. Complete an endurance event. Raise funds. Help give the boot to blood cancers.
www.teamintraining.ca/ab

Volunteers Wanted
Ice on Whyte Festival, Jan 14-24, 2010, visit www.iceonwhyte.ca and click on volunteer.

2005. Artist to Artist

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2010. Musicians Available

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2020. Musicians Wanted

3 piece rock band looking for 30+ male vocalist/rhythm guitar. Contact 477-3708.

Bassist (vocals a plus) needed for original hard rock band w/ some covers.Infl. Velvet Revolver/ STP/ Seether/ Chains/ Nirvana etc. Serious only please. Call 780 996-3571 any time.

Local alt-rock/pop-punk band Colour in Conflict needs solid bassist/backup vocalist. Large catalogue of original tunes, regular gigs and forthcoming record. Call Robyn at 780-913-3242 or email colourinconflict@gmail.com

---

Professional metal band seeks dedicated guitarist and bass player. No coke heads etc. Call 952-4927.

2040. Music Instruction

Guitar lessons - Webcam, Mobile, group or private. All Ages and Styles - 20 yrs. Experience. Visit www.guitarinstructor.ca or call Billy 490-6169.

2200. Massage Therapy

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3010. Auctions

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3210. Misc. For Sale

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SYDNEY CROSBY game tickets for the Oilers January 14 game against the Pittsburgh Penguins. This is the only Pittsburgh game for the next 2 years. These tickets are for fans in rural Alberta/NWT only. $249. each, dinner included. Seats are limited! Call Dash Tours and Tickets 1-800-265-0000.

4040. Livestock

HORSE BREEDERS & Owners Conference, January 15 - 17 in Red Deer. 18 educational sessions on variety of horse related topics. Info/registration at www.albertahorseindustry.ca. Phone 403-420-5949.

4310. Grain/Feed/Hay

HEATED/GREEN Canola wanted. Buying green, heated or frozen Canola....Buying: oats, barley, wheat & peas for feed. Buying damaged or offgrade grain. "On farm Pickup". Westcan Feed & Grain 1-877-250-5252.

ROUND HAY BALES for sale, cheap. Delivery available. Self unloading. No Sunday calls please. 403-843-6380.

5003. Real Estate Misc.

NEED MONEY? Own your home? Good or bad credit, we can help. Refinance today and start saving. Apply today at www.abhomeloans.ca or call Jason at 1-877-568-0929.

5800. Manuf. Homes - Sale

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6100. Cars

$0 DOWN at Auto Credit Fast. Need a vehicle? Good or bad credit call Stephanie 1-877-792-0599; www.autocreditfast.ca. $500. free Christmas cash with purchase. OAC. DLN 30309.

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7205. Psychics

LOVE! Money! Life! #1 Psychics! 1-877-478-4410. Credit cards/deposit. $3.19/minute. 18+. 1-900-783-3800; www.mysticalconnections.ca.

7245. Misc. Services

CRIMINAL RECORD? Think: Canadian pardon. U.S. travel waiver. (24 hour record check). Divorce? Simple. Fast. Inexpensive. Debt recovery? Alberta collection to $25,000. Calgary 403-228-1300/1-800-347-2540.

CRIMINAL RECORD? We can help! The National Pardon Centre® is RCMP Accredited. For better price and better service visit: www.nationalpardon.org. Call 403-698-8800 or 1-866-242-2411.

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9005. Personals

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9420. Adult Services

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9160. Adult Personals

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In 2009, SEE readers donated more than 200 kilograms of food to the Edmonton Food Bank, $135 to the Christmas Bureau of Edmonton, countless coats to Coats for Kids and Families as well as dozens of books to support children's literacy in Edmonton!

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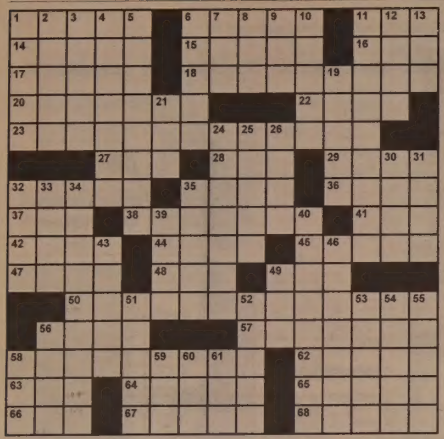
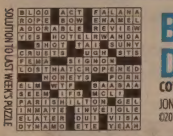


SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



BEST OF THE DECADE, PART 4

COVERING 2006-2007.

JONESIN' CROSSWORD BY MATT JONES

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ACROSS

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6 Shore bird
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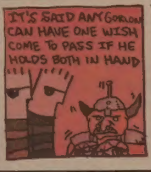
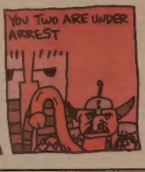
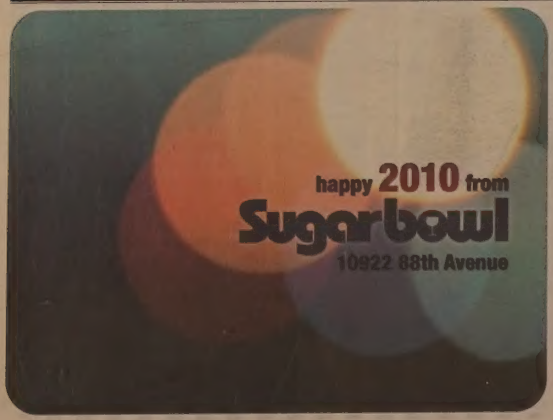
MUNICIPAL HAPPENINGS · WITH BILL BENSON



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January 5th & 6th
TRAVIS MARCOTTE
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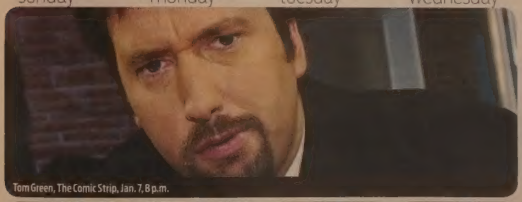
INTERSECTIONS · PHOTOS OF OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS

t5j

"Silent Night" is sung by candlelight during the Christmas Eve service at First Presbyterian Church at 10025-105th St.
PHOTO BY BEN LEMPHERS/EPIC PHOTOGRAPHY

see magazine's ten-day forecast of events in edmonton



Tom Green, The Comic Strip, Jan. 7, 8 p.m.

sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday

thursday

DECEMBER 31
music | **THE NEW YEARS EVE PARTY 2009** Realize that you've accomplished nothing in '09? This is the perfect opportunity for redemption. It's the only place in the city where you can catch seven bands and eight DJ's under one roof. Starlite Room, 7 p.m.

friday

JANUARY 1
music | **DAVID GUETTA** If you want to start the year out right, you ought to catch the Ken doll DJ who was nominated for five Grammy Awards do his thing at Edmonton Event Centre, 7:30 p.m.

saturday

JANUARY 2
recovery | **HANGOVER 2010** Still feeling like a hot mess from your NYE celebration. Well, this is your chance to catch some hair of the dog, and do it all over again. Here's to drinking until you can't feel feelings! The Common, 9 p.m.

JANUARY 3
event | **ROLLER SKATING DISCO** Yes, it is as much fun as it sounds. Though, contrary to popular belief, you don't have to dress like a complete ass to have fun. Sportsworld, 1 p.m.

January 4
learning | **ARGENTINE TANGO CLASSES** Consider this your warning to remove all thorns from the rose you'll put in your mouth. A dance lesson for all stages of experience. Orange Hall, 7:30 p.m.

JANUARY 5
film | **THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS** Catch Heath Ledger in his final performance in this esthetically pleasing story of a theatre group leader who makes a deal with the devil. Garneau Theatre.

JANUARY 6
event | **WINTER LIGHT FESTIVAL** This just might be the event to make you realize that winter is in fact not the worst thing in the entire world. Ice carving, snow gardens, street hockey, live entertainment. Put on two pairs of socks, and get out there. Info: winterlight.ca.

JANUARY 7
comedy | **TOM GREEN** North America's most disturbing comedian makes a stop in our city. If he humps a dead moose, I would demand a discount. The Comic Strip, 8 p.m.

JANUARY 8
music | **MUDHONEY** If you're down with plaid, greasy hair, 1994, and grunge, this is the place for you. With Michael Rault, and Slates. Starlite Room, 8 p.m.

JANUARY 9
event | **HE(ART) BEAT FASHION AND PHOTO SHOW** Come and catch some of Edmonton's up and coming artists. A fashion show, photography, live music, DJ's, and booze. We know you have nothing better to do. Latitude 53, 8 p.m.

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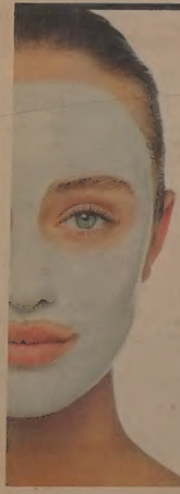

SERVICES AT EC ACADEMY

CUT & STYLE
Womens Haircut & Style $20-$30
Shampoo, Set & Style $15+
Updo $40+
Mens Haircut $10 - $20

CHEMICAL TEXTURIZING
*Prices may vary based on the length and/or porosity of hair. Additional product used will incur extra cost.
Standard Perm $45+
Custom Wrap $85+
Full Relaxer $45+

COLOR
*Prices may vary based on the length and/or porosity of hair. Additional product used will incur extra cost.
Solid Color $35
Color Blocking $45+
Bleach + Tone $50+
Corrective Color Determined Upon Consultation
Regrowth Touch Up (under 1/2 inch) $25
Full Foil $50+
Partial Foil (maximum 15) $35
Each additional color $10

HAIR & SCALP TREATMENTS
Conditioning Treatment $10+

BODY SERVICES
Scrub & Wrap $50

NAIL ESTHETICS
Manicure EC Academy $25
Pedicure EC Academy $40
Manicure & Pedicure (Same day) $50
Mini Pedicure $20
French Polish $7
Paraffin Wax $7
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SKIN ESTHETICS
Facial $40
Back Facial $35
Make-Up Application $20
Brow Tint $10
Lash Tint $15
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Brow $15
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Back $35
Underarm $15
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Full Arm $25
Lower Leg $25
Upper Leg
(Includes French Bikini) $35
Full Leg
(Includes French Bikini) $45
French Bikini $25

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